

This Old House

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK
How to create a faux fabric effect with paint

HOW TO CREATE A FAUX FABRIC EFFECT WITH PAINT



Decorative painting techniques can instantly add interest to any room. To create the look of fine fabric on your walls, try dragging, or stenciling. The technique is as simple as pulling a dry brush through a coat of wet stenciled glaze, creating fabric-like "weaves." The effect is pronounced when there's a clear contrast between the base- and glaze-coat colors, tones of similar intensity can yield a subtler look.

Keep in mind before getting started, you'll need to work quickly. Keep a clean rag or paper towel handy to wipe excess glaze off the brush as you go.

You'll find a huge selection of tools to help with this or any home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For easy how-to instructions and a list of the tools and materials you'll need, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

This Old House is a weekly television series that airs on PBS stations nationwide. The show is produced by Time Inc. Entertainment Weekly Group. The show is hosted by Bob Vila and features a team of experts who provide advice on home improvement projects. The show is available on DVD and Blu-ray. For more information, visit thisoldhouse.com.

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letter {from This Old House.}

There's light at the end of the clutter

Once every three months or so, like now, at the change of season—or, you know, when company is coming over—my wife and I decide we have to organize our lives. I've been known to even take vacation days from work to do it. That is not because I do such a thorough job. It's because, well...look, it's an secret that I'm a hoarder.

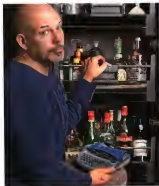
No, not like on that TV show—not empty cereal boxes, old newspapers, and burned-out lightbulbs with the date of their expiry written on them. To their credit, those people have order—or think they will use—the piles of junk that tower toward the ceilings of their homes. I can say with certainty that I collect things that I have not and will never use. An old sweatered suit I found at the curb, raggy shirts I saw worn when Ronald Reagan was president, the Wu we bought because we just had to play Rock Band (once, apparently).

My wife is not much better, with her love of both books and, oddly, acorn figurines. And so over basement, her office, and every back-in we have an overflowing—sort of like Phoebe J. Whoopee's closet in these old Tennessee Tumble cottages.

Sometimes I think the best thing to do would be to back a Dumpster up to the door, unload everything, and start fresh. But then I see stories like we have in this issue and realize that there are paths through the jungle. Take "Read This Before You Organize Your Garage," on page 52. If I had a garage, it would be the perfect place to store such a space struggle. Or there's "Order in the House," on page 76, a story in which the homeowners remodeled their small house with clutter-busting in mind. If I were remodeling, there'd be terrific advice to follow. But due to the risk, without a garage or a remodel, I am not too.

Which is why I've decided to start out small. With my liquor cabinet. Each shelf gets a different label. Not "Scotch," "Ble," "Whiskey," and so on. My labeling system is revolutionary. It starts on the bottom shelf with "Red Day" and goes on up through "Real Red Day" and "Don't Worry to Get Up in the Morning Day." And then there's the top shelf label: "It's That Time of Year Again. Send Yourself, and Let's Organize the House!"

Scott O'Mellanus
SCOTT O'MELLANUS, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com



The editor putting his managers and organizing systems to work.



TOH Don't Buy It, DIY It! Contest

Show us something you built yourself—furniture, an architectural detail, an outdoor structure, or the like—for a chance to win one of five \$100 prizes. Or try for \$10,000 in cash and a GMC Sierra pickup in the Reader Remodel Contest. These are just two of the many ways to be featured in our reader-created issue in July. For details, go to thisoldhouse.com/yearTOH.



Bonus images

See more great curb-appeal ideas like the ones starting on page 62—plus other tablet exclusives—only in the digital edition of *This Old House* magazine. To get your copy, go to thisoldhouse.com/tablet.

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Make your rooms more beautiful with trim

- + Put up crown molding like a pro
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How to cut crown molding

TOH guest contractor Tom Silva demonstrates how to make perfect miters and copes for light fitting joints. See his tricks at thisoldhouse.com/bonus.



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readermail

This Old House exists to serve readers of all levels of DIY ability or expertise. So we appreciated hearing from one savvy Web visitor who may not tackle every project herself but is glad thisoldhouse.com is there to advise her. A safety pro adds a helpful tip on fire-extinguisher maintenance, and another reader shares her colorful paint project inspired by a TOH cover photo

Knowledge is power

Blissings on you for your website! Daddy was a finish carpenter & regret not paying more attention to him than I did, but to my day, home maintenance was not a girl thing, in spite of my deep interest.

I now live in a place where patronizing women is an art. I cannot tell you the number of times I have called a contractor and either had my head pained or been ignored. Recently I called for an estimate on replacing a \$1,500 to \$3,000 heating unit and was given an estimate

then price of over \$10,000. I have no objection to people making a decent living off their talents, but I have no intention of being ripped off by companies that think "women" equates with "dumb."

So thisoldhouse.com is a god-send. If I cannot fix it myself, your site will keep me from being cheated. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

—JULIANNE RICHARDS, CALIF.

Fire-extinguisher checkup
In Checker's "Make Sure Fire Extinguishers Are Charged" (No-

vember/December 2012, page 20) I would add one thing: When an ABC dry-chemical fire extinguisher isn't too long, the agent can settle and become compacted yet still show a full charge. In addition to checking the gauge, people should turn their extinguishers upside down and give them a shake or tap the bottom with a screwdriver handle to loosen the agent. If all the weight appears to stay at the base, replace the extinguisher.

—ALDOHO ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY COORDINATOR
BUSTARD, OAKBROOK, ILL.

Solvent safety

I was taken aback by suggestions number 2 (to store solvents) in "30 Uses: Wine Bottles" (November/December 2012, page 28). Chemicals should never be stored in anything but their original containers. To do so poses a risk of fire or accidental ingestion.

—STEVE SCHETTER, BIE, WAHL

The editors reply: Several readers wrote to alert editors over this idea, and we agree. The online version of the article (go to thisoldhouse.com/home) has been updated with a note, safe number 2 was:

how to reach us

The editors, *This Old House* magazine, 150 New 10th Street, New York, NY 10020. Or e-mail TOH_letters@thisoldhouse.com. Include your full name, address and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.



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checklist { March 2013 }

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Remove salt stains

If road salt has made its way onto your carpeting, never fear. First, vacuum up as much as you can. The trick to removing any remaining spots is a simple spray of equal parts water and white vinegar, which acts as a detergent that doesn't need rinsing. Glet with a cloth until the salt is completely gone. Avoid steam cleaning, as water can get trapped deep in the pile and cause harder-to-remove salt crystals to form.



Improve your daffodil blooms

Get bigger, bolder flowers on these early spring bloomers by deep watering them as soon as you see leaves emerge. Cut off the extra hydrate once the petals open so that blossoms don't become waterlogged. After the flowers fade, keep the leaves intact; the bulbs rely on them to absorb sunlight as they store energy for next year's flowers. You can trim away the foliage without worries once it has yellowed.

TOH TIP

Give your sump pump a once-over

Make sure the float preventer is prepared to handle the ice. Two pounds of snow melt and spring rains ly giving it a quick test drive. Slowly pour water into the pump pan to raise the float and actuate the motor. If the motor doesn't kick in, check to see if the float is obstructed. If it isn't, call in pros.

Make oven cleaning easier

With winter's baking season behind you, it's a good time for an oven scrub. After running the self-cleaning cycle, there's no need to crum over an open door to wipe down surfaces; on most ovens, you can remove the door. Open it to the first locking point (there may be tabs on the sides to push it, as well), and pull up. Follow the same moves, in reverse, to slide the door back into place once you're done.



Repair rotted wood trim

If boards near windows or doors are water-damaged from winter fit them now before spring showers. Press a screwdriver into the wood. If it goes in easily, you'll need to do a patch. Scrape away rotted wood and fill with a two-part epoxy. Sand and paint the epoxy once it hardens to protect it from becoming degraded by the main UV rays. For a how-to video with TOH's general contractor Tim Rive, go to tothouse.com/home.



What's on your checklist?

"I'm adding a rain barrel to the garage development before April showers hit."

—Douglas Testatore, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
E-mail us your ideas at checklist@thefixhouse.com

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...the ...

Weatherstripping

Now that you've sealed your drafty doors and windows, keep that thrifty spirit alive. Save those leftover pieces of foam, felt, or tubing for these other practical purposes.

1 Quiet a cabinet.

Use a 16-inch square of felt or thin foam on the inside corners of cabinet doors to keep them from banging shut.

2 Pin up notes.

Stick hefty foam weatherstripping to a wall in a horizontal line as a spot for tacking up notes without punching holes in your plaster.



4

4 Dry windows in a pinch.

Push in an instant squarer by affixing a length of self-adhesive D-profile rubber tube insulation along the edge of a paint scraper.

5 Steady a push block.

Put a strip of foam on the end of this tool for better traction when cutting lumber at a table saw.

6 Keep hex keys handy.

After a couple of inches of D-tubing to a shed or map of an assembly required furniture. Slip the hex key into the tubing so that it's

easy when the piece needs squaring or disassembling.

7 Slide boxes from shelves.

Full stop runners on the bottoms of cabinets will help them slide easily on wood shelving.

8 Ped a picture.

Push in a 16-inch square of felt or thin



10

foam on a frame's back corners to protect walls from drips.

9 Secure wires out of sight.

Cut open 1/2-inch pieces of tube weatherstripping on the adhesive side. Slide a wire, such as a phone cord, inside. Put the pieces of 8- to 10-inch intervals along a table leg, a wall, or molding.

WHAT'S YOUR SOLUTION?
See how a small, yet versatile, material brings you creative answers to home problems. Watch a video on YouTube.

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Angie Hicks, Founder



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Landscape first aid

After a rough winter, your yard will likely need a little TLC. Here's what you can do to sure some common ailments.

Sunburn, dead tree bark

Diagnosis: Sun scald occurs when normally winter-dormant tree cells get heated back into action by direct sunlight and then are killed by chilly nighttime temperatures.

Prescription: Cut away the affected bark with a utility knife, rounding off the edges. Don't cover wounds with anything—winter snows will protect them and fungi grow. If the fall, avoid damage by insulating the trunk with tree wrap.

Completely uprooted plants

Diagnosis: If not frozen, freeze these cycle-weakened plants to expand and contract, pushing roots above ground even more than were well-established.

Prescription: When the soil thaws, replant and replace the topsoil. To prevent a future uproot, mulch around plants in the fall so that winter soil temperatures will stay more even.

Reverted emergency foliage

Diagnosis: These turn sunny-winter weather shrubs out and discolor leaves and needles and evergreens, which don't go fully dormant. Can't get the water they need from frozen soil.

Prescription: Snow-foliage is likely dead, but the branches will have survived. Wait for them to open their green eyes only after the damage. Next fall, water evergreens deeply until the ground freezes. —JAC



Try vintage doorknobs as curtain tiebacks

Invite in early spring a warming sunlight by installing drapery hardware that's easier to handle the push-and-pull of daily use: old doorknobs. These salvaged yards and cast-iron, or brass, knobs to find the right ones to fit your window. (It's easy if a knob is threaded or backplate is swaged or missing.) To install your 3-inch-diameter spigots (most, right, under \$5 at specialty hardware stores), which reach to the wall and the side onto the knob. A reproduction robe like the one shown (right, left, \$5-49 at household treasures stores) will slide over the spigots, covering the hardware. —COON CALAMAND



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE HOUSE OF DOORS; DOOR KNOB: COURTESY OF THE HOUSE OF DOORS; CURTAIN: COURTESY OF THE HOUSE OF DOORS; CURTAIN: COURTESY OF THE HOUSE OF DOORS

Transform a drab dresser

Turn an old dresser into an elegant outdoor piece with a unique hand-painted finish. Try using one of the same paint shades as the walls. Use the rest of the paint to make the furniture a perfect fit for the room while giving it an unexpected splash of color. Painting the other drawers and the dresser body in an array of neutral grays and off-whites turned just a shade from sweet to sophisticated. To get the look, try Sherwin-Williams's Rosebud, Snowfall, Grayton, and Essential Gray. What a way to set a new tone for spring! —A.R.



The 411 on salvaging wood pallets

It's the Cinderella story of the DIY world: Shipping pallets are being mined into showpieces by thrifty upcyclers who use them to create furnishings (see our project, page 70). To DIY safely, find pallets at family-owned nurseries, printing shops, or grocers, but ask a manager before helping yourself. Skip big-box retailers, which probably have pallet recycling programs (see, too, this issue.) Look for an "IT" stamp indicating that the wood was heat-treated during construction to kill microorganisms. Pies on any pallet that's stained or rotten. All home, wine, and maple, and grapes when dismantling the pallet and sealing the wood. Disinfect planks with equal parts bleach and water. (The washing allows the splinters to easily soak in.) —JAC



Cash in project leftovers

Why let unused remodeling materials become apartment-furniture in your storage space—or worse—go to waste? A few common oversights can avoid any of that. Start a home and recycle some of their cost. To make your job success, follow this advice.

Take good pictures. If you have a large amount of material (like for example), take a photo of the whole lot and snap out one piece for each by itself. (You'll need to get a photo of the whole lot and snap out one piece for each by itself.)

Include essential info. List the quantity, dimensions, and estimated weight as well as the type of material and finish. Include the brand name and where you purchased it. Say where it has been stored, how long it's been there, and why you no longer need it. (Remember, it's important to get it out of your house.)

State a price. It's okay to say "best offer," but set a starting point or at least say what you're willing to pay. —DEBRA DUBOIS

An uncluttered look that really cooks

Optimizing and coloring the kitchen adds the way to direct. Bowling, Javon, a young man, looked at new, colorful, places for prep. By DENISE BALDWIN - Photographs: JILLIAN NORMAN



Get a home of ideas for kids! Watch how "Ranch" dressing. The way Ranch is supposed to taste!



A kitchen can be a hardworking work. The kitchen in Debra and Robert Carr's Rockville, Maryland, house is so buttoned-down that a visitor might have a tough time finding the best (it's in a fridge drawer), the microwave (in another drawer), or even the dishwasher (behind a false drawer). Before the redo, they were boxed into a confined space with crowded cabinets and countertops. "I wanted my kitchen to be a canvas," says Debra, one with colorful accessories set against a neutral backdrop. She also wanted to be able to make pasta without having to reach cabinets looking for the grain. Designer Corinne Guinn pulled the space, borrowed about 40 square feet from the dining room to improve the layout, and ordered white uppers and gray base cabinets with helpful pullouts. Now the couple, empty nesters who both enjoy cooking, know how to find what they seek. Small appliances park in a garage near the fridge, and plates no longer hover at the back of crowded shelves. "In the old kitchen, I couldn't find anything," says Debra. "Now everything is totally organized."



Before: Jammed countertops and dated appliances cabinet to look the part of cooking. After: Every upstate, spice, and small appliance has an assigned place in the enlarged kitchen, which also gained a graceful opening to the dining room.

4 Columns-like cabinets to wrap glass upper panels and shelve from the pergapolyto the remaining rows. Cabinets: Premier Cabinet Range, H&M

5 The range hood is lowered to coordinate with the breakfast room molding in the kitchen and the dining room.



4 The breakfast room holds a removable dark breakfast set. Foundation shutters offer light control. Table and chairs: Artco; Shutters: Nest Day Birds

5 The breakfast room holds a removable dark breakfast set. Foundation shutters offer light control. Table and chairs: Artco; Shutters: Nest Day Birds



4 The appliance garage is strategically situated near the fridge with a landing spot for coffee, milk, butter, and eggs. Pulls: Jeffrey Alexander



before

The 308-square-foot cooking space was crowded and boxed in.



after

Cutting, brightening and opening up the space improved the layout and the traffic flow from the dining room to the breakfast room.

1 Demolished a partition wall to open up the space and create a high-functioning peninsula with ample sink, a microwave and equipment storage.

2 Swapped the range and fridge walls and arranged space for spices, cutting boards, and utensils around them.



3 Removed the peninsula then added the existing breakfast room to give the space a more open feel and better flow.

4 Added 4.3 square feet from the dining room to create more work space and a larger, more formal opening.



7 The white backsplash has gray accent tiles, widening the color scheme of the cabinets and countertops. Tile: Quince

8 Hued quartz countertops in a color called Misty Canars. Look like natural stone but never need sealing. Countertops: Decorsense; Pulls: Grif



pro advice
CONTRIBUTOR
KITCHEN DESIGNER

"Streamlined pulls can give traditional cabinets a fresh look. Shop for ones that come as a suite so that you can match each pull to the size of a given drawer or cabinet front."

Wash the day away.

THE DESIGN: TWO-IN-ONE SHOWER.

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before + after:
bath

Graphic and gracious

A home owner's DIY gut job turns a cave-like two-part bath into an open black-and-white oasis. By MICHAEL RAEER • Photographs by JILL HUNTER

Sometimes it's a hidden problem that paves the way for a style transformation. In Karl and Hensler Harwood's home, in Katy, Texas, fixing the spare bath's claustrophobic two-part layout was a low priority—until they discovered 100 square feet of mold caused by the room's leaky pipes.

Only after Karl had gutted the room down to the studs did the couple find their inspiration for the room's remodel: an acrylic claw-foot slipper tub, snagged online for half price because of an undesirable factory blemish. Karl dumped a side-wall into the room next door to gain space for the tubler and created a clad vanity shelf along the back wall to serve as deck space. A checkered ceramic tile floor and custom wall unit complement the vintage look. To update the period-style elements, Karl installed sleek conical pendant lights and finished the room with a streamlined rustic, modern cabinet, and less a towel. But it's the black-painted ceiling and lively details that have the couple vying for attention time in the guest suite. "It's like a cow's canopy of leaves above you, falling to the sides," Karl says. "We love it."

Before: A rusted tub/shower sat at the far end of the bath, blocking light from the room's only window. Dated earth tones decked the room out. An open floorplan and toothy white walls add a sense of spaciousness while checkerboard floors and a claw-foot cabinet lend vintage charm.



(before)

before

A floor plan of the bathroom. It includes a toilet, a sink, and a shower area. The layout is compact and efficient.



↑ **The variety**
and masculine cutlines
add the clean lines
of the wall to this
contemporary black
bath and provide
extra room for
essentials. The
matching linen
liner is a space-saver
keeps towels close
at hand without
obscuring night
lines. Vinty faucet
mixes chrome and
green. **\$654**

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after

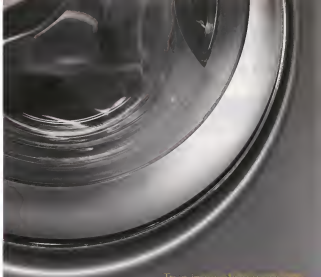
**I. Removed
(the closet)**
is free of a new
variety and
freestanding
shelf unit

**I Swapped
an accession
disc for a paper
hinged entry disc**

3. Opened up the space by dismantling the wall between the study and shower areas.

4. **Created a focal point**
by replacing an ugly built-in water faucet with a freestanding column and a tiled shelf.

5. Morrell
over wall.
246 inches
1880/81
coloured
game room for
chess against
the clock



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An organized office nook for \$156

A little-used closet transforms into a family workstation with ample desk space and some savvy storage solutions. **By MEGAN SAELE**

the project tally

Removed the closet doors and shelves to create an open closet	\$12
Collected a few from an electronics store to use the closet for a new light and switch	\$13
Mounted a salvaged laminate tabletop on a 1/2-inch plywood board from scrap wood; added secondhand metal drawers for supplies	\$7
Installed a power strip behind the desk outlets to control cords	\$40
Removed the legs from vintage console table and using it for storage; added drawers for small items	\$70
Added salvaged stools for seating and a thrift-store filing cabinet for the family's paperwork	\$12
total	\$156

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Before The extra space closet was spectacular but not really needed. With the closet doors removed, there's room for a wide desk that seats two and abundant shelving that keeps the area clutter-free.

Even in the day of mobile personal electronics, families still need a home base where they can store them all. That was the case at Natalie and Dallas Wright's house in Lake, Utah. A lack of office space had given the computer-literate-by-age-10s—Natalie, Dallas, and four school-age kids—a nomadic life that left everywhere wasteful. To make a permanent place for the clan's technology, Natalie hoisted in on an extra closet in the family's entry, removing the doors and shelves to open up the space and painting everything bright white. Since the closet was small, she crisscrossed the walls with an electrical line to get free wiring, then installed the pendant lamp herself. She created a double-wide desk by measuring a salvaged school tabletop with built-in metal cabinets, drilling two 5-inch holes in the surface to discreetly feed cables into the power strip concealed below them. Salvaged metal drawers tucked into the cabinet trade off support from sight. Above, Natalie picked up more electronics storage by saving the legs off a half-height vintage console table, affixing it with L-brackets, and stacking it with labeled boxes. So she finished the space with a filing cabinet and two refurbished storage stools, which tuck under the desk when not in use to keep the wall-free clear. "I like having the computer in an open area where it can help with homework," Natalie says. "And it's all organized. We see it all the time."

PHOTO: JAMES J. HARRIS



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Naturalist's living room

Neutral finishes and furnishings put the focus on an array of accents gathered from the land. Here's how to display tokens from far-flung expeditions for a cohesive and cozy look in your den. BY STELLA BARRETT • Photograph by JOHN EATON

Every adventurer needs a welcoming place to come home to. Case in point: this light-filled living room dressed with bookshelves and keepsakes from the homeowners' journeys. To create it, designer Carol Ann Spores started with a canvas foundation of white slipcovered sofas, dove-gray walls, and a sand-blasted rug. She then layered on sentimental treasures, such as a beachcomber's hoard of coral; the couple's collection of polished stone bookends, eggs, and orbs; a vintage cowhide rug from Wyoming; and lush landscape paintings that were bequeathed down from a relative. For help creating an affordable nature- and travel-inspired living area like this, read on.

traditional bookends

A warm-toned Georgian-style marble grounds this room full of adventures. You can get the effect by dividing up a sleek unit with a rich-colored accent. **Marble:** \$399, home depot.com. **Style:** \$12, west elm.com. **Painting:** \$25, ebshomebased.com

earthy rugs

Layer a silky skin over warm woods to tie play-up the different textures. **Cowhide:** \$199, ikea.com. **Shag:** \$38, westelm.com



framed landscape

Scour secondhand shops for an inspiring viewpoint around to evoke the spirit of 19th-century naturalists. We found this one for \$50 at online antique emporium Ruby Lane (rubylane.com).



agave bookends
A rugged stone that's been agitated and shaped, this goodie pair is perfect for displaying bird journals. **\$42:** bigredshop.com



botanical touch
Pretty plants, like this Boston fern, in a handsome bronze urn, bring the outdoors in. **\$49:** \$22, save me somebuck\$



polished stones
Add a dash of natural wonders, such as these carved vinyl bookends. **Eggs:** \$40, phoenician.com. **Eggs:** \$14 each, westelm.com

speed chair

The homeowners' upholstered wool frame chairs are juicy relics of parlors from the 1800s. This ivory-tinted perch costs half as much as a just-as-charming \$800 Victorian-style case.



spectrum jars

Shoreline finds from the beach or streambed in vintage jars that glow with some pretty life. **\$25 for a set of three:** \$60, poppyglass.com. **Four total:** \$75, agfhome.com



coffee-table display

A book of ecological illustrations offers an escape for another traveler. Use a loan-handled engraver to mark pages. **Table:** \$79, west elm.com. **Caricatures book:** \$40, amazon.com. **Engraver:** \$25, agfhome.com

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From no character to quaint

Muted natural colors enhance the lines of this turn-of-the-century charmer

by HEATHER FORDITCH • Illustrated by HOWARD DIGITAL



Before

Spectacular views of Lake Michigan convinced Jim and Sue Perlow to buy this 1901 Edwardian-era house, in Harbor Springs, Michigan, even though they were put off by its dated greenish-gray-and-purple exterior. "We wanted over it, but this wash-of-color scheme doesn't mean right either," Sue told us. To help her out, we enlisted James Martin of The Color People, in Detroit, to develop a few color combinations that would play up the house's assets.

"The 'painted lady' look isn't historically accurate or flattering for this house, which has fairly simple details," says Martin. Instead, he developed three sophisticated palettes that quietly highlight the house's elements and make the house into its surroundings. Subdued blues reference the sky and lake, while a range of green tones anchor the house to the landscape, the third scheme of earth-inspired colors is a bit more subtle.

Though they haven't picked a favorite palette yet, Sue and Jim are drawn to the blue one. "It's exciting how color alone can change a house's whole look," Sue says. ■



Pick your palette

These three schemes reflect the house's simple elegance and pay tribute to its natural setting along the lake and trees. ■



lake-inspired blues

Main body: Cerulean Blue
Gable: Canadian Bay
Trim: Treasured Moment
Accent: Great-Gray
Roof/shed: Agreeing Warm
All from Glidden



organic greens

Main body: Riverbank
Gable: Forest Walk
Trim: Lichen Cove
Accent: Royston Scope Red
Roof/shed: Muddled Bark
All from Sherwin-Williams



mixed earth tones

Main body: Riverbank
Gable: Quiet Moments
Trim: Innocence
Accent: New Brick
Roof/shed: Hampton
All from Behr

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new!

Onion-style porch lanterns

These nautical-inspired sconce lights add coastal cottage charm to your home's entry, no matter the locale. *By AUST ROBERTS • Photographs by WENDY T. WERNER*

When glowing onion lanterns have been welcoming Americans home for nearly a century, few there were more porch fixtures popular in the early 1900s as onion-light sconce lanterns. They are named for their bulbous, onion-shaped bodies, which also hold a whole-onion frame from wood, iron, and/or steel. A cage—added later to improve glass-blowing techniques—prevents flames from erupting—protects the globe from breakage. Fitted with a loop handle on top, onion lanterns were a portable light source that could be hung on the wall with a wood peg or a metal bracket.

These days, onion lanterns are ceramic, and that old peg is now a mounting plate, often decorated with a brass hook. And instead of the original lantern's raw wood is sturdy brass or copper, as well as aluminum and steel with a painted or powder-coated finish. You can also choose from etched or etched glass made of clear, or bubble-filled, seeded, or apple-apple glass. Here, 12 of our favorites.

onion-style

onion-style lantern

Size: 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 10 1/2"

Material: Solid brass

with an ornate metal

hanging plate

Highlight: Light reflects through

the glass, creating a warm

glow. The lantern's design

is a nod to the original

onion lantern.

Price: \$125

Where to buy: www.1800light.com

shopping

onion-style lantern
Size: 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 10 1/2"
Material: Solid brass
with a dark bronze finish
Highlight: The lantern's design is a nod to the original onion lantern. The lantern's design is a nod to the original onion lantern. The lantern's design is a nod to the original onion lantern.



To get your proportion of the whole lantern, make sure the lantern is the right size for the space. The lantern's body and width should be about one-third that of your door, and it should be placed one-third of the way down from the top of the door casing.



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bold pendant
KITCHEN LIGHT
Size: 12" x 12" x 12"
Made of brass with a brushed
nickel finish and clear glass
Highlight: A large lantern, it's a great
for big spaces, particularly when hanging
in a kitchen. \$235, westlight.com



double-headed
KITCHEN LIGHT
Size: 12" x 12" x 12"
Made of brass with a brushed
nickel finish and clear glass
Highlight: A more modern take, the
double-headed pendant is a
great choice. \$445, westlight.com



double-headed
KITCHEN LIGHT
Size: 12" x 12" x 12"
Made of brass with a brushed
nickel finish and clear glass
Highlight: A more modern take, the
double-headed pendant is a
great choice. \$445, westlight.com



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Highlight: A more modern take, the
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MOUNTING OPTIONS

Often lanterns are not just for hanging on the wall. Their iconic shape translates handsomely to other fixture types, for use as a table or on their own.



hanging
Use this standard in covered entries with high ceilings. Leave about 1 foot of space from the bottom to avoid head bumps, but make sure the lantern is high enough to be seen from the street.



flush mount
With a compact profile, it's perfect for a porch with limited headroom or clearance to accommodate head clearance. Also good for entry areas where a pendant might swing.



light post
Mark the entrance to your driveway or front walk with this style. It makes a statement on its own, but is typically used in conjunction with wall or ceiling fixtures that offer more light to enter in the front door.

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landscaping

Slim fit

Trained against a wall or trimmed into a living fence, espaliered trees and shrubs are an elegant small-space solution for any yard. BY SAM HIGGINS



It might seem strange to back a tree up against a wall, smooth it flat, and persuade its branches to spread sideways. But the art of espalier—growing trees or shrubs in two dimensions—is a time-honored fix for the space-challenged gardener.

Do you dream of apples on a patio-size lot? You can encourage your gnarled wall or draw a line between your outdoor living and dining areas? Espalier (pronounced *es-PAL-yer* and derived from an Italian term for support) lets you back fruit where it otherwise wouldn't fit, wrap an eyeless for a flower bed's focal point, or divide large areas into smaller ones with graceful, lacy accents. The practice dates back to medieval times, when it allowed the distressed residents of walled cities to feed themselves without venturing beyond the safety of their walled compounds. In America, it arrived with the colonial era: George Washington, for example, espaliered pears and apples at his Mt. Vernon home.

Formally pruned or spreading freely, espaliered plants often lean on walls, making use of their vertical habit to boost the yield of fruit trees and speed the ripening of the harvest, especially in climate zones that are borderline for growing fruit. But an espalier also may itself create a wall

APPLE OUTSTRETCHED This tree's pink blossoms covered both are pruned to grow in a carefully spread-out shape. With apple and pear trees, a masonry building helps retain heat, encouraging fruit to ripen faster.

on a living fence, with the help of stout poles strung at measured intervals with wires. One common pattern, the horizontal garden, trains evenly spaced branches spreading in lines from a central trunk. The *palmetto* runner resembles a candelabra, and the Belgian fence, a leafy, catwalked lattice.

The form, and even the plant, you choose depends on your objectives, your garden's size conditions, and your level of patience for the pruning and training that an espalier requires. Dwarf pear and apple trees, which work well for formal shapes, need at least 6 hours of sun a day and a careful hand to avoid lopping off the thickened growth, called spurs, from which fruit develops. Certain ornamentals with flexible branches—flowering cacti and *pyracantha*, to name two—can only stay there in shade or spots that also lend themselves to looser, free-form designs once forgoing of neatness. As its most basic, an espalier may consist of wires, such as rebar or wireline, that are tied up and covered to grow in particular patterns or directions.

While a tree presents a somewhat greater challenge, you can take a shortcut by purchasing espalier starts at a nursery. Already shaped and trained on trellising, these can be planted in a chosen spot and their forms simply extended and maintained as they develop.

It isn't hard, though, to start your own espalier. The principle is simple: Plants grow from a central stem, known as a leader. If you snap the leader, shoots emerge from buds on the stem's sides, below the snap, and from the top. The best two-side design you choose will be the ones you guide to create the lengths of your espalier tree by snatching them to wall hooks or wires; the topmost shoot becomes the new leader and, eventually, the main. As the pattern emerges, maintenance is merely a matter of pruning away growth that detracts from your desired shape and keeping the plant low enough for easy tending.

Whatever your goals, shop at a quality local nursery for plants suited to your climate. If you want apples in Southern California, for instance, you should choose varieties that have lower chilling requirements than varieties suited for northern New York. For training trees, look for robust, mostly unbranched 1-gallon plants called whips. For ornamentals, the *maquisetiera*, besides a suitable, easy-to-train habit, are seasonal interest (flowers, berries, foliage color) and compatibility with your chosen planting location. Suitable picks include *forseythia*, magnolia, flowering quince, and photinia.

Before planting, make a scale drawing of your design on paper so that you can space trees properly and refer back to your plan as pruning time. A sketch will also help

small-space support On a backyard patio, RIGHT, espaliered trees with a trellis in an accessible setup for training unspaliered trees. Simply tie the plant's branches directly to the wood slats as they grow and spread using jute twine or some other soft, flexible type of plastic.



pattern play The *camellia* series, ABOVE, is one of several traditional forms of espalier. RIGHT, A pear tree trained horizontally to a corner espalier allows fruit where it's easy to pick. BELOW, Plants in multiples and supported by rows of wire anchored to widely spaced poles, pear- and apple-free cordons can serve as a living fence that also yields an orchard-like harvest.



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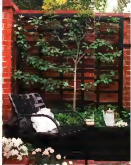
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beauty and beauty Keep red roses ABOVE LEFT on a trellis in an accessible setup for training unspaliered trees. Simply tie the plant's branches directly to the wood slats as they grow and spread using jute twine or some other soft, flexible type of plastic.

you decide how to realize your design—with a wood-lattice frame or a grid of wires for support, perhaps—which will dictate the construction materials you need. If you're working with a wall and hope to capture extra warmth for fruit, pick one that faces south or east.

Once your initial grafting lines are in place, dig holes so that the trunk will be about 6 inches from your wall to allow the plants air circulation, and prep the soil so you would normally add organic compost and sorting plants at the same depth they occupied in their containers. Clip the tops to about 18 inches, and as new growth appears, preserve the beside shoots and the chosen leader and snap the rest. When branches are about a foot long, tie them loosely to wires or corks in using twine or another material that won't dig into soft new tissue. Prune annually, referring to your sketch for starting, in late winter or early spring, before active growth starts, continue to trim on branches as they develop, keeping old wood so that they don't girdle the branches. Generally, it takes three to four years of pruning to complete the shape of an espalier and, from then on, selective clipping or keep it snip.

Your reward for this careful collaboration with nature? A lasting piece of garden art, one that's bagged with flowers, filled with foliage, or laden each year with fruit that's never out of season. ■

How to attach supports to a masonry wall

While espalier shoots can be trained directly to wood lattice, or using a support system in a brick, block, or stone wall requires a little work up front. First, use chalk to sketch the pattern you want for the espaliered tree or shrub directly onto the masonry surface. This will help you figure out where to place the supports. Then, using a masonry bit, drill holes on the pattern lines every 18 inches or so. Then, on the 2-inch expansion shields, which will anchor cylinders into the masonry. Carefully cut the holes, insert the shields, and screw in eye-bolts that are long enough to create a 4- to 5-inch gap or space between the eyes and the masonry. Finally, secure 1/4- or 1/2-inch wire between the eye-bolts for tethering the espalier's branches.



DRILLING HOLES IN MASONRY Shows in this photo, drill at 1/2-inch diameter 1/8-inch holes, 18 inches apart. Then, use a 2-inch expansion shield to anchor the wire into the masonry.

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But will it go with my traditional house?

A keyless lockout should make life easier for everyone, so look for the right bells, whistles, flashing lights—and looks—before you buy *by* DEBORAH JALOWICH • *Photographs by* MICHAEL T. HENNES

shop
smarter

It "locking" happens under the main—longer seems like the answer to misplaced keys, consider a lockout that responds to the touch of a number pad. Punch in a PIN and an electric motor slides open the hole, close the door and the bells slide back. These lockouts come in both modern and tubular styles, replacing like with like can ease installation. That said, the owner's manual, complete with necessary diagrams of rekeying pegs, may send you into the area of a pox. Whether or not you DIY, these five considerations are key.



1 Two-out-the-number pad

Look for double numbers—helpful at night—and indicator lighting. Rekeying the PIN should be easier than working a variety. Also helpful is the option to make two PINs, one for temporary use by a guest or repairman. The keypad's secure access should be battery-free, just be sure to remember where you put the key.

2 As soon as the lock deadens

Keyless lockouts tend to be long, but not all styles do. What's more, you may be able to replace just the lock cylinder if you're adding lock to two places. But the one choice. But bar-made sets have the best of both in use and the simplicity of a hard-pullback. Details such as a thumb-number pad and forged brass trim may drive up the cost. Read the warranty: It may not cover the electronics for more than a year.

3

As soon as the lock deadens, you can avoid hard wiring. But make sure they will last at least a year and will be easy to replace—a type one fails over problems and designed to slide out and (without a handle).

4

As soon as the lock deadens, if the lock isn't working, will it let you know? Some now have a key-LED that changes color if the door is unlocked until it flashes to indicate problems, such as worn batteries. Some lockouts keep and sound an alarm if you keep entering the wrong PIN.

5

As soon as the lock deadens, As with any cell, you may choose a remote for night or left side door swing. Other options may include a way to turn off the automatic release—when you're not lighting, stop, and would be sure to add the door lock is automatically locked you. It keeps make you easy use if there is a way to turn them off.

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Plate rack

Build a mounted storage shelf or select a premade option to store all your crockery. BY COTY CALAMAND • Photography by WENDY T. WEBER

If you're looking for a way to dramatically boost the charm and functionality of your kitchen, consider adding an open plate rack. It mounts to the wall, leaving counters uncluttered, and gets your dishes out in the open—easy to grab and hand out to guests.

The first example at right features shapely sides and Shaker pegs to hang cups or towels. To build it, you'll need a few pieces of poplar or equally solid lumber for the sides and shelves, a piece of beadboard for the back, and hardwood dowels. It comes with a French cleat, which you can make from wood or purchase in metal.

Alternatively, if detail work with dowels doesn't sound like your cup of tea, there are many other options you can buy instead, ranging from mass-produced models to handcrafted marvels. No matter what, you'll feel good giving your dishes a proper place to share.



FROM \$120 TO \$140
This year's model is our Best Buy at \$129.99. Collect a \$10 rebate to pay \$119.99 and get it delivered from July to October. Visit www.homedepot.com for details.

build it

Fit the design to your dishes by altering the depth of the sides or the space between shelves

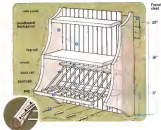
1 Cut the pieces. Follow the cut list at threshold.com/boards. To lay out the curved sides, first mark the back edge of a blank at each shelf location: 5, 15, and 29 inches from the bottom. Add 1/4 inch to the depth of each shelf, then measure and mark that distance from the back edge at each shelf location. Tack a burl at each mark, and tack one near the top and bottom edges. Insert 1/4-inch from the back. Next, draw a line between each pair of burls and use it to trace four shallow arcs. Gang the two side blanks and cut along the lines with a jigsaw.

2 Drill the dowel holes. For the horizontal dowels, drill 1/4-inch-deep holes every 2 inches in the front and back sides. For the diagonals, offset the holes in the beveled faces of the top and front rails 1/4 inch from the first set.

3 Assemble the rack. Glue the short dowels into the back rail, then glue the front rail onto their free ends. Glue the diagonal dowels into the beveled faces of the front and top rails.

4 Build the cabinet. Form the back panel 1/4 inch above your benchtop. Mark the shelf and rail locations on the side pieces and stand them up against the back panel. Place the shaker pegs and tacks at their marks, and screw into them through the sides and the back. Install the cup pegs and the French cleat. Paint the piece and hang it.

Cost: \$120 for materials
Time: 3 hours
Difficulty: Medium. Cutting curved sides with a jigsaw and drilling dowel holes take skill.



build it or buy it

buy it

More space for plates and such will step up the price

\$60+ the basic model

This assembly required unit is better suited for displaying a few prized plates than holding a full set. Target.com



\$130+ the mid-range model

This crisp country charm takes 12 plates and four mugs and has room for more below. On the top shelf, shaker-style tacks hold a few more. Target.com



\$349+ the luxury model

This low look shelf comes in 31 color options and features drawers perfect for your favorite kitchenware. AmericanCountry.com



Read this before you organize your garage

All too often this valuable real estate is used as a dumping ground for tools, lawn equipment and sports gear, while your car never makes it farther than the driveway. Let our clutter-busting guide help you get your shipshape in time for spring. BY MICKEY GOODMAN • Illustrated by SCOTT LAGAR

THE BIG CLEAN OUT GETTING STARTED

Organizing pros estimate that only 30 percent of us store our cars in the garage. The reason? Too much stuff the clutter will help you get rid of anything you don't need.

• Set aside at least a full day or even a full weekend or two to get the job done.
• Make decluttering a family project and invite your kids to help you sort through your stuff.

• Go through absolutely everything, including boxes you don't touch when you move—in you never know where that family heirloom might be lurking.

• Sort all items into three piles: keep, donate or sell, and trash. Lay them out on the floor or mark all areas of your driveway with chalk and place them there.

What should get the boot, outdoors? Items that are broken beyond repair, expired household chemicals (which may need special disposal), and anything you haven't used in two years or more. If you have a hard time letting go of things that have sentimental value, such as pictures or keepsakes.

• Sort the keepers into three categories (for example: sports equipment, tools, and toys) and place them in well-labeled cardboard boxes or better yet, stackable clear-plastic bins you can use later. Put the keepers back in the garage for now.

• As soon as possible, donate your items and schedule a yard sale to get rid of leftovers. If you've got too much trash for your hauler to take, use a service such as Bagster (bagster.com) simply buy the bag at home store, pack it, and contact the company to schedule pickup and disposal (also easy).



THE BEST REASON TO TACKLE THIS PROJECT

It's the only place you can store your car and still have room for everything else. —MICKY GOODMAN

STORE THESE ITEMS ELSEWHERE

-  **CAR BATTERY:** Extreme cold or heat can ruin it. Store yours in a more temperate area.
-  **LAWN MOWER:** A spark could ignite the fumes. Tanks should always be kept outdoors.
-  **REFRIGERATOR:** They're a magnet for rodents and other bugs. Move them to your pantry.
-  **REFRIGERATOR:** It's a huge energy drain in spaces that aren't air-conditioned.
-  **FOOD:** Pets and other critters will sniff it out. Keep it in a sealed container inside.

DON'T SKIMP ON SAFETY

Most of us store lawn-mower gas in the garage, so be prepared for a fire. Get a 5- to 30-pound U.L.-listed extinguisher and mount it in an easy-to-access spot. It should carry an ABC rating, meaning that it's effective against wood, oil, and electrical fires. Though we're sure you know to open the garage door when your car's engine is running (right?), installing a carbon monoxide detector will give you added peace of mind. And while you're in it, check your garage-door opener to make sure it has a U.L.-listed motor and an auto-stop feature that will prevent the door from closing in case a child or pet tries to sneak underneath.

FILL AIR LEAKS BETWEEN THE GARAGE AND HOUSE

Excess moisture and cold air can sneak into your home through the cracks between the garage and house. Seal the gaps with caulk. To learn more, visit www.sealing.com.

MUST-HAVE STORAGE PRODUCTS FOR GARAGES

1. Stackable clear plastic bins with lids (Rubbermaid Roughneck Clear containers, from \$9.97, walmart.com)
2. Clear bins in different sizes for sorting hardware and small tools. Simply label each bin and place them out thoroughly before using.
3. A lockable cabinet for storing lawn chemicals and other stuff you don't want your kiddos getting into (Dewalt Dewasafe 48-inch Steel Multipurpose Cabinet, \$79, lowes.com)
4. A portable label maker (such as the Label Image 2000-200, amazon.com) so that you don't have to decipher sloppy handwriting.



THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CLUTTER-BUSTING TIP: Keep items off the floor whenever possible. You'll free up much more room for your car and avoid sloppy, impossible-to-sort-through piles. If you purchase ready-made shelving units or cabinets, make sure they're raised on legs so that you can clean the floor beneath them easily.



DRAFT A FLOOR PLAN

Most manufacturers of garage-expanding systems offer free space planning, so use their services as you research how to store all your gear before buying anything. Take down your garage's dimensions and note the size and location of windows, doors, switches, and receptacles, as well as how much space your car takes up. Then use the following rules of thumb as you assign things a home.

1. Items you use together, such as gardening tools and lawn chemicals, should be stored close to one another.
2. Put bulky equipment, like lawn mowers, in corners where they won't get bumped or knocked over by your car.
3. Place frequently used items, like bikes, close to the garage door.
4. Stack seasonal or rarely used items in the hardest-to-reach spots.

This Old House blueprint

Events, Promotions,
Advertiser Product News, Etc.

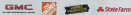
TV Spotlight Cambridge Project Wraps



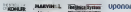
This season, the *This Old House* TV crew dug both their hammers and their hammers into the historic neighborhood of Fan Hill in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to help turn the remains of a badly damaged 18th-century Queen Anne into an open, airy Tudor-inspired home that a family of four can be proud of. To watch the transformation of the Cambridge project at 1 o'clock, catch full-length episodes now at thisoldhouse.com/news/TOH.



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weekend
remodel

Build a decorative driveway marker

Stock lumber and some creative cutting yield a charming new landmark

By JAMES CAFFEY • Photographer by KYLE J. SMITH

Crew Time

TIME: 6-10 hours
DIFFICULTY: Moderate. Working
bevel cuts with a circular saw
requires a steady hand, but
assembly is a snap.

A well-proportioned driveway marker lends a bit of whimsy to your home's curb appeal. The design at right, by *This Old House* contributor Christopher Bechtel, owner of Purr, a handmade furniture company in Brooklyn, New York, has the added benefit of being relatively easy to build. Nearly all the cut can be made with a circular saw and a circular saw. And because treated lumber makes the project nearly indestructible of standing up to the elements for many years. Follow along on the next page as Christopher points us through...

Photo: Christopher Bechtel
Marker is easily
modified to meet
your needs.



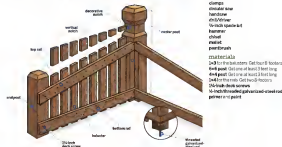
For complete
instructions,
turn the page.



Day-to-day timeline

SATURDAY Cut the parts and make the decorative nests (class 1-3)

SUNDAY Assemble the frame, attach the balusters, and paint the marker (Steps 6–8).



- tools
rafter saw
combination square
straightedge
rafter square
clamps
circular saw
hand saw
drill/driver
3/4-inch spade bit
hammer
chisel

materials

D-3 for the balusters. Get four 8' footers
8x8 post Get one at least 3 feet long
4x4 post Get one at least 3 feet long
D-4 for the rails. Get two 8' fencers
2x4 inside deck boards
M-inch threaded galvanized steel rod
 nuts and washers

1



1. Lay out the balusters

A. Rough cut the balusters. Use a table saw to chop the balusters 16 percent for the balusters according to the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/forums. Adjust the blade to 12 degrees and trim off one end of each baluster as shown.

5 Trim them to length. Lay out eight rough-cut balusters on your work surface, using spacers to mark the distance between them—20 inches in our case. Line spikes angled in half against a board. All the other ends, 20 inches apart, the outside edge of the left baluster at 20 inches and the short one at 34 inches. Use a right-angle square to square the points, and mark a cutline across each baluster, as shown. Reset your miter saw to 90 degrees and cut each piece. Now you have eight balusters of ascending length, each with an angle on top that lines up perfectly with its neighbor. Use the first set of balusters in the brace cutlines on the second set, and cut them too. Set all 16 aside.

2. Prep the center post

A. Crosscut the post. Measure and mark the 6x6 oval in post according to the dimensions on the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/bonus. Use a half square to transfer the dimensions around the post. Set your circular saw blade to its maximum depth and make a crosscut on each side. Complete the cut with a hand saw, as shown.

E. Bore on another hole. The marker will be pretty heavy, but it's not a bad idea to anchor it with a steel rod. Clamp the post to your work surface and mark the center point of the bottom. Using a 1/4" inch square bar, make a hole for the rod by drilling into the post as far as the bit will go.



3. Lay out the center post

A **Mark the notches.** Mark the cutlines for the horizontal and vertical notches in the cast as post. The four notches around the top side of the post. The vertical notch at the back of the post is there to anchor the rails between the ends of the horizontal piece.

2. Cut the vertical roots. Ridge of the blade (leaf) that you require is now 1/2 inch. Starting at the bottom and at the peak, make a cut along one line. It is closer to the bottom than to the top of the mark. Rotate the pot 90 degrees and up the adjacent line. The second cut should connect with the first. Use a hand saw or carefully crosscut the wood a piece where it is still connected at the top of the notch. Then use a chainsaw or chainsaw cut outline the rest of the waste.

C. Bevel the top of the post. Set the saw blade to full depth and adjust the angle to 45 degrees (the next step involves a cut from Step 2B to support the shoe at the saw, as shown). Crosscut along the topmost mark on each side of the post to create a bevel all the way around.





WARNING ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY GOGGLES AND HEARING PROTECTION WHEN USING ANY POWER TOOL. ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. NEVER REACH INTO THE TOOL WHEN IT IS RUNNING.



4

4. Create the decorative notch

A. Make the bevel cuts. The first end chisels with parallel 45-degree cuts angling in toward one another. Set your circular saw blade at 45 degrees and notch the blade depth to the face of the top bevel. Cut along the notch's top and bottom outlines, as shown, until four sides feel flush back to 90 degrees, and adjust the blade depth to finish. Make two straight cuts all the way across the post that connect with the angled cuts.

B. Make the bevel cuts. Remove the excess material with the notch, make a series of closely spaced bevel cuts through the bevel on all four faces of the post.

C. Clean up the notch. Clamp or brace the post to your work surface, and use a hand saw to knock off any remaining bits of material. The result is the look of a chisel neatly paring away the face with a notch on top and the end cut with a smaller square backing remaining to mark.

5. Make the end posts

A. Cut them to length. With your miter saw set to 90 degrees, cut two 4x6s to length. Depending on the cut of your blade, you may need to cut into each face of the post to give it the way through it.

B. Round the tops. Set your miter saw to 45 degrees. Mark a line at the way around the post. Notch below the top. Clip all four corners along the line, as shown.



5

6. Build the frame

A. Attach the first bottom rail. Cut the bottom rails to length, notch them out and in March starter to maintain even baluster spacing, which is 4-footed into the first rail at the notch. Stand the center post and an end post on your work surface, and set two balusters on edge to establish the rail height. Then build the longer rail into the notch of one end and flush with the end post at the other. Use level/desk lines of exchange with a 1/2" to 1" gap, as shown.

B. Attach the remaining rails. Set your miter saw to 12 degrees and then cut one end of each top rail. Build the angled end of the rail into the top of the notch, and use a 1/2" driver and two deck screws to secure it. Attach the other end where it meets the end post. Use a hand saw, as shown, to trim off any overhanging rail. Follow the same steps to attach the rails on the perpendicular side. All balusters they will built into the rails you just installed.

C. Attach the balusters. Use spacers to keep the balusters on the table (and track them around) and to set the distance between them. To hide fastener holes, work from behind the assembly and screw through the rails and into the balusters.



6

Tip: If you need to level the market, use rods on all three points. Thread a nut and a washer onto the rods, and turn the nuts to adjust the height of the posts.



7

7. Paint and install

A. Finish the piece. Pressure-treated wood tends to often need care from the time it's processed, so it's best to let it dry for two to four weeks prior to finishing. When it's ready, use good quality water-based primer on all exposed surfaces, and paint it.

B. Install the short rail. Hammer a short length of 1/2-inch steel rod into the ground where the center post will go. Then with a helper, lift the assembly and slip the center post over the rod, using the hole you drilled in Step 2B.

Curb-Appeal Boosts for Every Budget



MAKING YOUR HOUSE the stunner on the street doesn't have to break you or the bank. Eye-catching exterior upgrades can be simple—repainting the front door and putting in new foundation plants—or complex, such as adding a new porch. It all depends on your wallet and the work you put in. But whichever approach you take, there's no question that enhancing your house's outward charm will make you prouder, your neighbors happier, and potential buyers more intrigued someday. Coming up, your fellow readers share eight inspiring before-and-after makeovers that show the range of successful improvements.

by Josh Garskof



(before)



Restore a period look

Before homeowners Charles and Christine Gentle got their hands on this 1895-Queen Anne manse in Cavesport, New York, it was a neighborhood blemish. The gracious front porch had been enclosed, the clapboard siding was rotted, and the roof was so neglected that saplings had sprouted on it. Working from a historical photo (inset) and taking cues from nearby homes of the same vintage, Charles, a contractor, and Christine, an interior designer, restored the home to its once-proud status. They even upped its grandeur with a spacious addition.



- A. Porch:** In addition to creating the original open porch, Charles and Christine built a deck to extend it across the new addition (top left). But the plan was vetoed by the local historic district commission, which wanted a delineation between the new and old portions of the facade. Instead, the couple went with an open deck and a Juliet balcony above that's bordered with the same cypress reproducer gager-braced railing used on the porch.
- B. Siding and roof:** The couple had the rotted blue siding replaced with new cedar clapboards finished with Cabot's solid, colorfast stain. Beneath the 1890s gray asphalt roof shingles were the original cedar shakes, but they were too damaged to save. So the couple took them down to the stripping and added cypresswood sheathing before installing new asphalt architectural shingles in a cedar-like color.
- C. Doors and windows:** Charles and Christine restored the stained-glass entry door and the adjacent window beside it, using salvaged, leaded glass in the same iron-to-plate breakers. The rest of the home's windows are new energy-efficient replacements with insulated double lights. Also new is a peeled-wood screen/blank door. Painted in Benjamin Moore's Stratton Blue, the door has beaded trim and swings on new Victorian-inspired, loaded hinges.
- D. Landscaping:** Emulating the lush of formal Victorian plantings, the couple wanted to play up the area's coastal vibe—the house overlooks Cavesport Harbor—by sun-drenching the foundation and a new brick walkway with easy-care plants, such as beach grass and sedum, as well as perennials hydrangea, star anise, Potted annuals, like pink and purple petunias, add bright pops of color at the entrance to the porch.

Play up the architecture with paint

It was the arched "hobbit" door that first attracted Taylor Forchier and Josh Cabot to this 1893 cottage in Portland, Oregon. When they decided to refresh the facade, the couple chose a paint palette that would put the focus on the entry. "We started with the red door and worked our way out from there," says Taylor. Ut by a new Moroccan-style pendant, the door knows what visitors admire most.

- A. Paint:** The couple hired pros to do the work but selected this energetic five-color paint scheme themselves. Their picks: Benjamin Moore's Raven Tint for the porch door and the window casings, and Van Deusen Blue on the body. For the trim, they went with Sherwin Williams's Tie Light. A local paint manufacturer supplied the flagstone hue for the porch floor and the yellow-gold for its railing.
- B. Siding and trim:** Beneath 1800s clapboards with 10-inch reveal the couple uncovered the original 4-inch-reveal Douglas fir slats. "Narrower courses make the house look more traditional, and taller too," says Taylor. The original trim had been removed, but its shadow remained on the sheathing. So they matched its beveled dimensions, except above the windows, where adding crown molding created a ledge for new casement shutters.
- C. Windows:** On the first floor, Taylor and Josh simply stripped and repainted the original shutters. Upstairs, the original casement windows had been replaced with vinyl double hungs, so they tore those out and had new casements made.

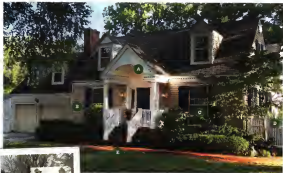


Brighten a dark facade

Many buyers in North Lynn's historic neighborhood had turned down the old, modest home to build new. But Nathan loved the style of this 1928 Tudor, so he initiated the job about restoring it, then and lighting up the look of the front to make it more inviting from the street.

- A. Entry:** Nathan planned to repair the damaged stucco around the front door, but the studs behind it were rotting. So he removed the masonry and replaced the framing. For a stucco look, he sheathed the area with fiber cement panels in warm gray hue and created a faux hand-painted effect by covering the seams with rot-resistant composite free-painted white. A new open-gable porch protects and highlights the entry without blocking natural light.
- B. Windows and trim:** Nathan stripped six layers of paint off the original double hungs and refinished them in a crisp white. The original arched front door was stripped and then brushed with glossy eggshell paint.
- C. Landscaping:** To transform the patchy and weed-filled yard into a lush garden, Nathan had to give it more sun and nutrients. He started by clearing an overhead shade tree, which allowed more light to reach the lawn and highlighted the look of the home's facade. He then removed the existing grass and started from scratch with 2 inches of new topsoil and a fresh carpet of seed.





Layer on classical details

Sure, it had a dreary yellow-paint job and an awkward combo of vertical and horizontal siding, but Bob Bliss saw potential in the Prairie Village, Kansas, home. It was built in the Cape Cod style, which traces its roots to colonial-era America. Bob figured that the best way to revive the home was to give it some character. Armed with his cutbacks, he devised a plan for what would become a more than 30-year lift reving.

A. Entry By letting out access to the foyer, Bob was able to shift the entry 2 feet to the right, conferring it on the house to create symmetry. He then just angled porches accented with a metal molding cornice that continues across the entire facade. The portico's supporting posts are wood, but Bob used cellular PVC for the majority of the balustrade. A new poured-concrete stoop sheathes in red brick complements the new stately entry.

B. Siding In place of the lower and better siding on one side of the entry and shingles on the other, Bob installed new clapboards finished with Benjamin Moore's Sag Harbor Gray. He painted the trim white and highlighted the door with a custom-mixed navy blue.

C. Cornices and windows To create a bedroom over the garage, Bob rebuilt the structure, raising the roof and adding gabled dormers that match the originals on the main house. He then added new wood windows with simulated divided lights and highlighted them with raised-panel red-oak shutters. Painted blue like the front door, the operable shutters are held open at the house with traditional "rattle" shutter-dog hardware when open.

D. Porch The fence is a Colonial Williamsburg style—but made of vinyl, not wood. That, war, or even need painting. This also allowed Bob to protect the fence from wind shear by anchoring the posts in concrete, a no-no for wood because the rising winds would and can be rotten.

E. Landscaping Yews and boxwoods bordered by a new brick walkway frame the entry and dwarf dogwood helps to balance the visual bulk of the garage on the opposite side. Because colonial-era homes didn't have gutters, Bob installed a drip edge, hiding a half-inch downspout pipe behind the foundation plantings.

Open up the porch

The once-quiet cottage that Brenda Jones purchased had been in the same family since it was built in 1929. But over the years the Lanes, Delaware, home had been "upgraded" with asbestos siding and plastic windows that enclosed the porch. Brenda knew the home could be a charming again by simply undoing the unfortunate work others had done.

A. Porch The only salvageable parts of the porch were its concrete-block foundation and its roof structure. The rest was rebuilt, using new composite decking for the floor and wood-slat cellular PVC for the posts. Because the porch is less than 30 inches above the ground, Brenda was not required by code to install a railing, but she added a 24-inch high one anyway for vintage look.

B. Siding Brenda did the demo but hired a contractor to properly dispose of the asbestos shingles and install the new siding. The original wood clapboards had been damaged, so she had them replaced with fiber cement, which won't rot or warp.

C. Paint Playing up the house's Delaware Bay setting, Brenda chose a beachy color palette. She used Benjamin Moore's Key West Drops for the body, Bahama Sea Blue for the shutters and white trim paint.

D. Windows All the windows were replaced with double-hungs that have a wood exterior but a new vinyl interior that blends with the white trim paint. New composite shutters with a ship-shepherd cutout have operable vintage look hardware and are wide enough to cover the windows during storms.



[before]

Refresh by revisiting the past

Ashley and Adam First loved that the inside of their 1923 Prairie-style bungalow, in San Diego, California, hadn't been altered. "It was a case of preservation by neglect," says Adam. But the outside had a rocky concrete porch addition with no one wall and pegholes that blocked the view of the house. The couple's solution: Remove anything that wasn't original to the house.

A. Porch After tearing out the pegholes, the Firsts began patching the concrete floor—and discovered the original concrete kept underneath. "That gave us the footprint for our newly poured one," says Ashley.

B. Exterior and roof During a previous remodel, a contractor had improperly flashed the flat roof, causing the soffits to rot. So the Firsts had the roof, flashing, and gutters repaired and the soffits rebuilt with tongue-and-groove redwood planks. To help divert water away from the house, the couple added new heavy-gauge aluminum downspouts.

C. Paint The Firsts chose a multicolor scheme, using Sherwin-Williams's Bungalow Gray for the body, Wood Swain for the trim, Amending Auburn for the rail accents, and Gerret Gray for the porch chimney and foundation.

D. Landscaping A landscape designer snipped a little drought-tolerant plant, but the Firsts did the planting—which included golden dendrobium, olive, elephant ear, copper poplar, and a groundcover called silver carpet. Adam also installed slow-voltage LED lighting systems.



[before]

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Repair and spiff up what's there

Soon after she got married, Kelly Green-Sowers started hunting for a home in Western Salem, North Carolina, that the other husband could share. "But Jeffrey is an architect, and he's super picky," she says. Finding something that he liked—and they could afford—was a challenge. "Then we found this place, which was such a wreck that Jeffrey knew he could transform it into exactly what he wanted." The 1905 Queen Anne-style home needed a new roof and the porch columns and floor were rotted.

A. Windows: The original windows were in excellent condition, so Kelly and Jeffrey simply repaired them, replacing any broken panes with vintage salvaged glass. To improve the windows' efficiency and protect furniture from fading, they coated the panes with UV-blocking film.

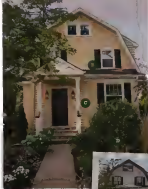
B. Paint: The multicolor scheme was inspired by San Francisco's "Painted Ladies," but with darker, more restrained hues. "If you live in an urban area—or near a busy road—darker colors hide pollution and grime better," Jeffrey says. The entire house was tented to contain the lead paint dust while every speck of paint was being stripped from the lapboarded windows and moldings, which were then repainted using custom colors.

C. Gutters: The couple salvaged an old-fashioned copper half-round gutters with round downspouts. Each one empties into a rain barrel with a spigot at the base to supply water to the yard.

D. Landscaping: Behind the brick retaining wall, which the couple had installed, is a lush forest plot. Taking cues from Victorian-era gardens, Jeffrey planted perennials that need little water, such as black-eyed Susan, coneflower, geranium, water hyacinth, lavender, morning glory, creeping phlox, cardinal flower, and columbine. Only in July, when the sun is very intense, does he need to supplement the collected water that the new rain barrels supply.



Before



Build out the entry

When Ken Mahan and Steve Marin integrated the enclosed porch into the 2027 Dutch Colonial in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, atop the main living area, they lost what had been a valuable transition between indoors and out. By adding a screen door, they reclaimed that space while also creating a new focal point for the home's facade.

A. Porch: The porch over the existing front stoop enhances the entryway and provides shelter from the rain and snow. A pair of screen doors are new, making a front door that replaced the rotted original.

B. Window and shutters: They replaced a single double-hung window with a single wood double hung that matches the house's originals. The local historic commission required wood shutters, but not necessarily operable ones. So Ken and Steve cut the wood about half by choosing slim black units, rather than custom widths to match the windows, and by skipping the hinges and shutter design. The new shutters are simply screwed to the wall.

C. Paint: The cedar clapboards were in good shape, so Ken and Steve just repainted them. They opted for a cherry-blossom color palette, using Benjamin Moore's Morning Glory White for the body, Black Forest Green for the shutters, and crisp white for the trim.

D. Landscaping: To fill around the low-end planted a cottage garden in daisies, snapdragons, and Japanese maple. They added dwarf Alberta spruce along the porch and filled the 30-foot-deep front yard with hydrangeas, dwarf Japanese holly, ornamental grasses, echinacea, hosta, bamboo, and Green Ice rose.



Before



Planting for Curb Appeal

There is no more affordable—or DIY-friendly—way to improve the look of your home than with new landscaping. Here are six ways to ensure success:

1. Add verticality. Set on a stoop or hung from the edge of a porch roof, potted plants can draw attention to and frame an entry. Choose blooms that live with your plant scheme or porch furniture, such as the bright orange, red, and yellow ones shown above.

2. Go for year-round interest. Too many yards look lifeless and dreary in the colder months. Avoid this by choosing a mix of plants that put on shows at different times: from spring and summer flowers to colorful fall foliage to eye-catching winter berries and seedpods.

3. Choose diversity. Nowadays, many popular fountain plantings come in growth-restricted varieties, so you need to constantly prune them to keep them from shredding the sidewalks.

4. Vary textures and shapes. Synthesize the look by using different plant shapes—from narrow to bushy, textures—from fine needles to broad leaves, and leaf color, from pale to deep greens and even yellows, blues, and purples.

5. Create architectural depth. Rather than make a single-file row of plants along the house and property lines, place them two or three deep, always with the tallest in back so that all rows are clearly visible.

6. Plant for mature size. Don't space plants by eye—or else what looks right when new shrubs are a foot wide will become an overgrown mess when they've grown fivefold. Unless you're creating a hedge, front the spacing by looking listed on plant labels as the minimum. ■

ORDER IN THE HOUSE

REJIGGING THE STAIRS, ADDING 30 SQUARE FEET, AND BUILDING IN CLEVER STORAGE SOLUTIONS TRANSFORM A COMPACT 1918 BUNGALOW—AND THE DAILY LIVES OF TWO BUSY PARENTS AND THEIR THREE YOUNG SONS

BY DEBORAH
BAUDWIN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ALEX HAYDEN

PRODUCED BY
COLETTE SCANDIN

STYLING BY
MICHELLE GREGO



THEY GET

OPPOSITE: Low-fat meats and proteins start at the front door and lead the living room. THIS PAGE: Customized built-in drawers maximize the kitchen and dining room and double as storage for media components up and down and outdoors and backparks.

IN

some neighborhoods, the name of a family-oriented architectural designer is passed around like a recipe for foolproof bake-sale brownies. The word on the playground in Seattle's Queen Anne section, known for its historic but dysfunctional bungalows, is "Call Ken Clements." Never mind her firm's reputation as a one-stop shop for remodeling projects—she's also the mother of three young boys. "I knew she'd know exactly what I needed," says Stacy Sikors, who called on Clements when her own offspring were threatening to turn her three-bedroom, two-bath Craftsman into a boy cave.

"Do we move to a bigger house?" Stacy recalls thinking. "But we love our location, a block from the community center and a big park, and just two blocks from the library." So Stacy and her husband, Scott, decided to try white mink room in their busy lives for a taste of one-month redo.

The project gained traction after they were fixed up with Clements and her husband and design partners, Joe Schwedes, at a school bond issue. The two couples realized they not only had similar taste but also had boys in the same grade: "a matched set," as Clements puts it. "I knew where the pressure went," she adds. "The kids play sports, they're academic, they're all going in different directions, and you're trying to manage all that in a lovely but limited footprint"—a golden way of saying, "in a cramped and cluttered shared space with a layout that makes no sense for a family today."

Stacy recalls: "You had to go through the living room and the dining room to get to the kitchen. Or you could go up the stairs and then down the other stairs." Once you got there, the counters, "the kitchen was small and crowded-in. With your arms out you could almost touch the sink on one side and the stove on the other." A previous owner had lowered the ceiling. There was just enough room for a table—for four.

The rest of the first floor seemed to be no change against the growing family as well, with the front door opening right into the living room and so little storage that Stacy still talks about the row of coat hooks now along one wall as if Clements had reversed the wheel.

"Visiting Ken and Joe's house helped me make decisions on how to design and decorate our own house," says Stacy, recalling such enviable firm as a reference: dining table made from old bowling-alley flooring.



IMPROVED CIRCULATION

LEFT: Pumping out the old wall was set for the flow around the generous new island. **BELOW:** The dining room kept its original coffered ceiling while gaining French doors and a slider opening to the kitchen. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The living room is built, modern and command center 200-2000 from the kitchen. **PLAN:** Remains Moore 4 200-2000 (left) and (right) (below). Cabinets: Belcher Cabinet Co.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

FLOOR PLAN

To open up the 2,025-square-foot bungalow's cramped first floor, the design-build team replaced two sets of stairs to the second floor with one set, shanking it over new basement stairs, and lopped out the kitchen a sink wall to add 30 square feet. An opening in an interior wall now channels light from a new set of French doors in the dining room. Built-in throughout filled in glaring storage gaps.





Before they could get to the fun stuff, however, Clements and her design-build team had to work out ways to convert rooms visible from space from a 90-plus-year-old house on a small corner lot.

The disoriented second floor needed only one new frame to hold the boys' shared bath, a similar master bedroom, Scott's home office, and one of the home's two full baths (the other was the finished basement). But the first floor, where everyone liked to gather, felt disastrous and choppy up. The driving question, Clements says, was "How do we have a family of five live comfortably in a modestly scaled house, with a place for everything?" Her answer was to pretty much take the first floor apart and put it together again, ensuring storage in unexpected places as in a Japanese pushy box.

Our crew did the trim and stair structures, making way for a key first piece: a smart-looking set of built-in

MODERN FAMILY SPACE
RIGHT: The dramatic school fireplace surround and the whimsical ceiling fixtures give the living room a fresh look. The new opening over the arched entry in light white, separating the reading and relaxing zones from the kitchen-dining room-study hallway. The room kept its original leaded glass windows.
ABOVE: Elsewhere, energy-efficient replacement windows help seal in sophisticated Bear heat. Ceiling fixture: Barford Design; Armchairs: Capora; Sofa: Pottery Barn; Coffee table: David Smith & Company



SHAKE YOUR REMODEL
 Drive your remodel forward with our Insider Reports. Contact for a free copy, which includes office and field photos and all the information you'll need.



NEAT TRICK

ABOVE: Beveled mirror fronts add a formal note to the chair-wrapped built-in that serves as a coat closet. Stacked cabinets at one end hold hooks for kids' outdoor gear; the other end is a changing station and linen closet. These cabinets also conceal the laundry chute, which opens. **RIGHT:** All the connections between the bedrooms and the bath and empties into the basement at the foot of the washing machine. Full Reproduction: David Smith & Company



wrapped by a single set of stairs. The design-build team also altered the stairs to the basement, adding a landing halfway down with a door that opens to the side yard. Clements characterizes this new entrance as an experiment in behavior modification: a subtle architectural hint to encourage soccer players to deposit their gear down below before rushing to do about dinner.

To shake up the confined spaces and bring in more light, the team cut a generous opening in an interior wall and lined up French doors in the room beyond it, pushing a sunny light line from the front of the house through the dining room to a neighbor's yard—call it a visual land grab.

The kitchen lost its dropped ceiling as well as its back stairs, while gaining 30 square feet in the form of a cantilevered breakfast—puzzle piece number two. The tiny add-on required no foundation yet was "the small release valve that made everything work," says Clements. Scott, who likes to saunter from his rich job by reading cookbooks, gained extra prep space, a superluxe German fridge, and a spiffy induction cooktop. The kids got personal cabinets—mini-angel's eat areas, once they share a bedroom—with hooks for lunch boxes and backpacks, and bars for easy cell phones. "We didn't have space for one big mealroom," Clements explains. "So we figured out what they needed and spread it out."

The living room's alcove-like lounging area gained definition in two strokes. One involved reconfiguring the front doors so that, when a winter storm, the screen is behind the door, not in front of it. The other is a partition wall that encloses a desk and computer center. Here, Stacy oversees a series of paperwork that pool around the shared computer before coming to rest on news bins, drawers, and cupboards. A magnetic bookshelf holds reminders.

The connected center communicates directly with the kitchen, which now opens wide to the dining room. Clements finished this multipurpose space with a formal-looking table, topped with bowling alley wood, and a TV with a disappearing distance of the cook.

The result is a free-flowing line of activity at the back of the house. Those seeking refuge can sneak into the living room to nap under the guise of reading. In fact, says a pleased Stacy, "we're in the dining room and kitchen the whole time—the new setup just works for everyone." That includes the designers' three boys, who have become regular guests. No surprise. It seems the new families find they're equally at home in each other's house. ■

Crafty Ways to Save

This Old House's favorite home bloggers share clever DIY projects that deliver maximum style, comfort, and convenience on a minimal budget

BY NANCY BEILES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACEY BRANDFORD

There's no end to the upgrades we'd make around the house if our budgets were as expansive as our wish lists. Luckily there's an alternative to waiting for that wallet to grow fatter: Copy the home bloggers. Yep, you heard right.

There are no more miserly, rub-two-sticks-together-to-make-fire folks than these. Many demonstrate that resourcefulness on an almost daily basis, posting custom-look improvements they've made without the help of professionals. From among our favorite sites, we found eight great projects. So follow along as these bloggers share how to re-create the results in your home.



PROJECT Window seat and wardrobes

MAINTENANCE: Jennifer Flores, who comes up with designs that her husband, Sean Warwick, executes for their 1950s home in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They chronicle the results at ranchingproject.com and blogspot.com.

INSPIRATION: "I always wanted a window seat when I was a girl, and I imagined having one with our daughter in her nursery," says Jennifer. "The room also had no closets, so we needed to add storage."

HOW THEY DID IT: Rather than frame out closets alongside the seat, Jennifer and Sean bought two wardrobes from IKEA. "We like ready-made things that we can customize," says Jennifer. For the seat, which fits on an under-window cushion, they used 3/4-inch medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and perforated wood panels that allow feet to pass through. A cushion on top turns it into a comfy perch. To make it all look like one big built-in, the couple painted the seat, the wardrobes, and a new ceiling-height shelf in the same creamy white.

WHAT IT COST: \$200 for the wardrobes, a 4-by-8-foot sheet of MDF, a 4-by-8-foot sheet of perforated wood, a custom cushion, shelfboards, paint, glue, and nails.

PROJECT Divided-light fireplace screen

MASTERMIND: **Blaise Henkle** is a former retail display designer who uses tricks of the trade to create furnished vignettes for her 1990s Colonial-style home, in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Her projects are featured at mymoneystyle.com.

INSPIRATION: "I wanted something to hide my firebox when not in use, it doesn't look pretty without a honey fire made. With de-cluttering my basement, I came across this window sash, and it was just the right size to use as a screen."

HOW SHE DID IT: Blaise screwed two sets of pre-fab pine shelf brackets she bought at the home center to the bottom of the window sash so that it would stand upright. Then she grouted the brackets and sash, and painted them in a white semigloss, sealing the different parts. To give the glass a mirror-like finish and obscure the view into the firebox, Blaise applied five coats of Krylon Looking Glass spray paint to the back of the panes.

WHAT IT COST: \$800 for the brackets and mirror paint; the window was free



Myra doesn't have an old divided-light window sitting around, pick one up at your local home center or salvage yard for as little as \$50



PROJECT Faux-tin dishwasher panel

MASTERMIND: **Linda MacDonald**, a writer in Nova Scotia, Canada, who shows off the upgrades she makes to her digs at restylehome.ca.

INSPIRATION: "I love the look of tin ceilings, so I figured I could use the tiles to give my stainless-steel dishwasher a vintage feel to match the rest of my kitchen."

HOW SHE DID IT: Real embossed-metal ceiling tiles require special strips for cutting and often need to be sealed to stand up to kitchen splashes, so Linda opted for vinyl "look alike" tiles. She came in as 18 by 24-inch sheet with three squares a cross and floor down—a perfect match for the height of her dishwasher but not for its width. To make up the difference, Linda used a utility knife to cut a one-tile-wide vertical strip from a second sheet. She adhered the tiles directly to the dishwasher door with heavy-duty double-sided tape, tucking the cut side of the tile strip underneath the finished edge of the full sheet.

WHAT IT COST: \$96 for two vinyl tile sheets and a roll of double-sided tape



PROJECT Shipping-pallet headboard

MASTERMIND: **Dustin and Whitney Rawlings**, who bought a turn-of-the-century house in San Diego, California, and taught themselves how to fix it up. They show off their work at therusticnesthelen.com.

INSPIRATION: "We wanted a face-to-eeking headboard to give our bedroom a loftier feel," says Dustin, "and we loved the idea of making it out of rustic and worn-looking wood from shipping pallets."

HOW THEY DID IT: By putting in about 10 hours of actual work and 10 hours of sandblasting for the 15 pallets required to make the headboard, before nailing the pallet boards to their bedroom wall. Whitney and Dustin whitewashed them with a mix of latex and water. The new finish highlights the wood's grain pattern and knots and gives the disparate pieces a unified look.

WHAT IT COST: \$3.50 for nails; the pallets were free, and the paint was left over from another project



STEP-BY-STEP

1. Attach the pallet boards with nail points where joints will be. 2. Remove the boards from the wall; they'll lightly sand with 60-grit paper. 3. Remove the boards from the wall; they'll lightly sand with 60-grit paper. 4. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 5. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 6. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 7. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 8. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 9. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 10. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 11. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 12. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 13. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 14. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer. 15. Attach the boards to the wall with a pneumatic nailer.

KNOW SOME NIFTY, THIRTY-TWO

Give your dinner table a rustic look for a change in style. Use a shipping pallet to make a table. For ideas at diyhousewife.com.

PROJECT Beefed-up baseboards

MASTERMIND: Shelley and Cassie Smith, who make upgrades to their Salt Lake City home affordable by doing the work themselves. They share the projects at thehouseofsmiths.com.

THE INSPIRATION: "We wanted to give the short baseboards in our kitchen more room, bright, but didn't want the trouble or expense of ripping out the old moldings and putting new, taller ones," says Shelley. "In the past, we've faked the look of paneling by attaching by securing wood trim directly to the wall, rather than in plywood or MDF sheets, and then just painted it all. So we figured, why not try the same trick with our baseboards?"

HOW THEY DID IT: Shelley and Cassie nailed bead molding to the wall about 3½ inches above the existing baseboards. By finishing the molding and everything below it with the same paint, they achieved the look of one tall baseboard.

WHAT IT COST: \$6 for three 8-foot strips of bead molding; the paint was left over from another project.



STEP-BY-STEP

1. Nail a 2½-inch-wide wood strip at top of the baseboard to use as a spacer. Fasten bead molding to the wall just above the spacer with finishing nails. Work in sections, sliding the spacer along the baseboard as you go around the room.
2. Use sandpaper (medium to 80 grit) to sand as well as the joints where molding sections meet and at the corners.
3. Prepare for paint by taping where the baseboards meet the floor and along the walls where the new molding is. To finish, prime and paint the bead molding, the wall below it, and the baseboard.

PROJECT Homemade chalk paint

MASTERMIND: Kara Hancock, a stay-at-home mom and former elementary-school teacher in Anschutz, Colorado, who catalogs her design projects at too-much-time.com

THE INSPIRATION: "I found a chair with a terrible finish at a thrift store, and I thought chalk paint would look good on it. Problem is, the paint costs almost \$60 a quart, and that's insanity! I'd heard that it was possible to make your own, and I wanted to give it a shot."

HOW SHE DID IT: Kara researched online and consulted with furniture-refinishers to come up with a formula to refresh her chair (shown at right). She mixed 1½ cups of Behr's Premium Plus semigloss latex in CoolDusk with 1 cup of water and ¼ cup of powdered calcium carbonate. The ingredient that gives the paint its

chalky matte look. After painting the chair, Kara gave the new finish an age look by roughing up the surface with sandpaper and applying two coats of wax (a clear one topped by a dark shade).

WHAT IT COST: \$16 for a quart of paint, and for a 12-ounce jar of calcium carbonate from a health-food store.



PROJECT Picture-frame message center

MASTERMIND: Sir David Schwab, who started her blog brooklynlimestone.com to document the improvements she and her husband made to their crone-depleted noisiness in Brooklyn, New York.

THE INSPIRATION: "I had a table in my hallway for dropping mail, but I wanted something on the wall above where I could hang recent notices and announcements."

HOW SHE DID IT: Schwab spray-painted three frames—a large glazed one and two small wood ones—she already had. She filled the openings with metal-mesh radiator grilles that she cut to size with snips, and adhered the grilles to the backs of the frames with a epoxy. Hanging clips held in place with respect to display invites.

WHAT IT COST: \$40 for a 3-by-3-foot radiator grille, white spray paint, clips, and magnets.

PROJECT Drying rack

MASTERMIND: Kate Riley, an author who left her practice to fix up her home in California's wine country and details the transformations at cantaloupesgirl.com.

THE INSPIRATION: "I wanted a dedicated area in my laundry room to drip-dry delicates. When I spotted a pricey drop-down rack in a catalog, I thought, I could make that, and it would be better and cheaper."

HOW SHE DID IT: Kate sketched a design to suit her needs, making the rack smaller than the one she'd seen and adding knobs at the bottom for hanging. She spray-painted the plywood back a misty blue-green for a bit of color against her white walls.

WHAT IT COST: \$85 for wood, knobs, and hardware; the paint was left over from another project.



STEP-BY-STEP

1. Cut four 2-by-10-inch plywood boards for the frame and four 16-inch-diam rods for the bottom. Drill 16-inch holes in the frame to accept the rods, and use a saw to cut them in.
2. Fasten the frame with glue and finishing nails.
3. Hang the rack to a plywood back and while hanging, be sure it is at an angle when open.
4. Fill the holes, prime and paint the assembly and screw in knobs along the bottom. To keep the rack upright when not in use, add a window-sash lock at the top.

FINISHES
PAINT: BENET
Interior Design:
COURTNEY B. COOPER
FLOOR: BURLAP
COTTON: BURLAP
COTTON: BURLAP
TV: BURLAP
COTTON: BURLAP
COTTON: BURLAP
COTTON: BURLAP



STYLISH AND BLESSED Smart, pared-down design defines the interior of the renovated house. The family room (above) includes nooks for knickknacks and media equipment and a cast-iron fireplace. New maple floors were installed throughout the home. The exterior (opposite) sports a period-inspired paint job.



With a Scandinavian-style interior and an open layout, the latest TOH TV project tucks a much-improved floor plan inside the restored shell of an 1887 Queen Anne

← UPDATING A CLASSIC



By JILL COONWORTH
Photographs by ANTHONY TOSIELL
Styling by CAROLAN WOODWARD

Serene but in place in the house, but as a renovation principle, it needs scrutiny. While it's true that some things never change, day-to-day living has changed quite a lot in the past 100-plus years. At Sally Peterson and John Stone planned the renovation of their 1887 Queen Anne, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a clearheaded vision of what works for their young family made all the difference and resulted in the best of both worlds: a lovely, historically accurate home on the outside and a storage-loaded, open-plan living space on the inside.

Having lived in Cambridge for more than 10 years, the couple was looking to find more space for their growing family. This 2,400-square-foot three-story house offered a great location—the main school district, a short walk to public transit—but inside, it was a mishmash of rooms, the unfortunate legacy of its past as a two-family dwelling. The kitchen



OPEN PLAN At the heart of the first floor layout stands the kitchen (LEFT), with its 12½-foot-long island (top right) made of butcher block, whitewashed stools in yellow pine vent hood, and white flat-panel wood cabinetry.



was on the second floor, not exactly convenient for hanging in groceries, an over-size laundry room took up a good chunk of the first floor, and previous renovations had stripped away almost all of the house's original detail. Structurally there were no issues with it. "There was a first-floor partition wall that wasn't sitting on its girders, so the floor was sagging and new supports were needed," says TCH general contractor Tom Silva.

All these challenges gave the couple the chance to go in a new direction. Instead of trying to recreate a room-for-every-function floor plan, they decided to create it in better suit how their family lives. "I wanted a cozy, sunny haven, almost a beach-house feeling," says Sally, whose Swedish heritage has led her to favor modern Scandinavian design, a style that emphasizes clean lines, built-in functionality, and a palette of white surfaces warmed by natural wood tones. She found a loaded agent in architect Marcia Cleary, who sketched an open four-room kitchen and family room stretching the length of the house from front to rear. He also designed a wide sawtooth that ascended in a straight run (removes the two narrow dog-leg stairways that were there), a more orderly arrangement of second-floor bedrooms, and a reconfigured third floor devoted to the master suite.

As the renovation progressed, an outside-inside dialogue of hand began to emerge. From the exterior, it appeared as though a classic restoration was in the works. The original siding was repaired, sanded, and repainted, for example, and replacement windows were installed in existing openings to keep the facade looking period-appropriate. But inside, a radical transformation

INSIDE TCH once a two-family residence, the house suffered from previous eras with little original detail. The floor plan was revamped so that all the living spaces are on the first floor, with bedrooms tucked into the top two stories.



CASUAL DINKY Located between the kitchen and family room, the dining area (ABOVE) includes a green oak-and-white-pine island with deep drawers in an exciting bump-out—a perfect daydreaming spot for homeowners Sally Peterson and John Stone and their daughters (LEFT).

BY SALLY PETERSON
AND JOHN STONE
ARCHITECT: MARCIA CLEARY
DESIGN: MARCIA CLEARY
CONSTRUCTION: TOM SILVA
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: TCH
PHOTOGRAPHY: JANE BROWN
STYLING: JANE BROWN
PAINTS: FARBEN
LIGHTING: LUMINANCE

was taking shape. One material in particular visually ties together the three levels of the modernized interior: The whitewashed southern yellow pine used as a cranking asset in the family room became a design caveat for both the dining area and re the dining area, for the remodeled breakfast room confined for the stairways, and for accents in the master bath. Even the kitchen's vent hood is made from it. "We felt that building the hood from the same butcher block as the island top would have been too overdone," says kitchen designer Kathy Marshall, who collaborated with Sally on the build-out.

The result is a house with a ship-like efficiency that requires relatively little furniture. The children's bed room need no dressing, a desk area in the kitchen is concealed behind tall doors. "This is definitely a streamlined house," says interior designer Der films, who, with her colleague Andrew Tetton, guarded choices in fixtures, furniture, and color scheme.

Despite the dramatic overhead usage, John and Sally kept a few reminders of the past. The small foyer has a wall hung shelf supported by decorative wood brackets that once graced the house's side porch. And visitors can once again see the original mechanical doorknob—replaced by the TOM crew—to announce their arrival. When pulled, a small brass knob next to the front door triggers a pulley system that rings a bell attached to an unseen wall. A sentimental nod to the old house, to be sure, but one that still works for today. ■

HAIRYWORKING WASHROOM

Used by the children and guests, the full bath was kept open and straightforward with a simple design, subway tile walls, and modern shower light fixtures.



COZY PERCH
A window seat in a child's bedroom (ABOVE) is tucked away from the rest of the living room, but it doubles as a sleeper berth. Shiplap trim around the replacement window reflects the house's new aesthetic.

PAINT
WALLS: Dulux White
CLOSET DOOR: Sherwin Williams
KITCHEN: Sherwin Williams
FLOOR AND WALL: T&B Pine Tile

PAINT
WALLS: Dulux White
CLOSET DOOR: Sherwin Williams
KITCHEN: Sherwin Williams
FLOOR AND WALL: T&B Pine Tile

MASTER BATH The monochromatic white palette gets a jolt of blue tile in the homeowners' love of the ocean. The affixed signal includes a front closet and double sinks (BELLOW) as well as a tub with a view and a shower under the sloped ceiling (RIGHT). Double yellow pine adds a warm touch to the full surround and the vanity detail.



SOUTH RETREAT
Brighten with a small outdoor space and the sense of a fire-house left to Sally and John's third-floor bedroom where sliver is maximized by knee-high cupboards with built-in headboard.



This Old House

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STONE-TILE FLOOR

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tips, tricks, and answers to your home-improvement questions

Q A layer of oak veneer is coming loose on our front door. Can we glue it back?

—JANIS DOWLING, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

A Yes, provided you use a few specialty shims (spring) to hold the veneer in place while the glue dries. But shims, like the one at left, are good holding devices because the sliding arm snaps quickly and locks down tightly with just a few twists of the handle. Clean the joint with wood blocks and put wax paper under each block so that the spring won't stick to it. And because spring shims are in the joint, protect it—and the wood—with paint or a spot varnish that contains UV blockers. —THE EDITORS

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTOR SCHNAGER

STYLING: GARY SCHNEIDER FOR THE WALL GROUP

Our list of your projects

TOM SILVA
Senior ContributorNORM ABRAM
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Plumbing and Heating ExpertROBERT COOK
Landscaping ContributorKEVIN O'CONNOR
Tool

I discovered, after the drywall went up, that the rough-opening width for one prehung door is about 1/2 inch too narrow. Now what?

—BUTCH MESA, MURKISS, NYS



A prehung door like the one Tom Silva is installing at left needs at least 1/2 inch of clearance between the doorway's framing on each side so that the door can be shimmed properly.

Tom Silva replies: You can reduce the thickness of each jack stud—the ones facing the door opening—by 1/2 inch without affecting the strength of the doorway framing. That will give you enough clearance to clear the door plumb and hang it.

Here's one way to do that: Remove the jack studs, and replace them with N decking, which is 1/2 inch thick. First, set a post in the center of the opening against the header to keep it from shifting. Now crosscut the jack studs with a circular saw and pry the studs out of it with a cat's paw. Pull out each section, and seal the deck board in place so it's tight top and bottom. Do the same thing with the other jack. All that's left is to take away the post and trim the drywall flush with the new jacks.

SKIMMED DRAINPIPE

Q My husband and I want to determine where to mount some curtain brackets. Unfortunately, one stud turned out to be the main plastic drain pipe, which now has two screws left. What should we do?

—ANGELA KORNBERGER, LEXINGTON, PA

Richard Trethewey replies: I wish I had a nickel for every time that happened. First, those screws need

to come out. This is a drainage, and later and everything else will get hung up on the screw tips and eventually obstruct the pipe.

For a temporary seal, replace the offending screws with stainless-steel pan-head or round-head machine screws that are no longer than the thickness of the pipe wall. Sealant flange with a bit of Loctite or silicone caulk before putting them in so that they won't leak.

There's all you'd need to do if he'd hit a vent pipe. But a drain pipe requires a permanent repair: Cut out the damaged section and replace it with a coupling of the same material joined with a compatible solvent concrete PVC cement if the pipes are white plastic, All-Jo-Jo (soluble in acetone) if they're black plastic.

Q CAN THIS PLY BE SAVED?

One of our foundation plants got cooked during last summer's heat wave. How can I tell if it has exploded, or do you think it might come back?

—DENISE CROUCH, WATKINSON, MD

Robert Cook replies: Sorry, but your plant (above right) looks like it's beyond recovery. Don't take my word for it, though. Soak a handful of the browned branches with your thumb nail or the blade of your hand pruner. If the wood is pliable and light green, there's a chance it will sprout. But if it's brown and brittle inside, then the branches are probably dead.

You can trim off the dead stuff and hope that what's left will eventually regrow, but the damage appears to be so extensive that it would likely take years before it would look decent again. Instead, I'd replace it with something more heat-tolerant. Your local nursery should be able to recommend a plant suited to your area.

WHAT IS IT?



A-1 Pipe cutter

B-1 Rebar bender

C-1 Downspout crimper

D-1 Dr.

FOR THE ANSWER, SEE PAGE 10



This shrub's replacement will have a better chance of surviving heat spells if it is surrounded by cedar wood mulch instead of white rocks.

I'd also remove the white stone mulch, which, like the white wall and the light-colored concrete, is reflecting the sun's heat and intensifying the heat. Replace the stone with bark mulch, which will help to hold in moisture and cut down on reflective heat. And when temperatures go up, provide some temporary shade during the new plant's first summer. A simple pop tent made of plywood works fine, just move it away when the worst of the heat has passed.

Q CABINET-FINISH FIX

I put a water-based stain on my cherry media center and then applied multiple coats of water-based polyurethane. But there are still brushstrokes in the poly. What can I do to get a smooth finish?

—JOHN STEVENS, BARTONVILLE, CALIF.

Norm Abram replies: Finisher art tricks. I suspect your problem is related to how you prepared the cherry or applied the polyurethane.

Before I use water-based stains or polishes, I sand hardwood to stages from 120 grit up to 320 grit. Any-thing finer just brushes in the surface, preventing it from accepting

the stain. Next, I spray the surfaces with distilled water—up or with water may contain minerals that stain the wood—to raise the grain slightly. After the wood dries, I give it a very light sanding with 220 grit—just enough to knock the grain back down. Then I tick off the dust and apply the stain.

Water-based stains and finishes generally need to stain wood grain, too, so after the stain dries, I sand the surface lightly again. If I'm not quite satisfied with the way the stain looks, I'll apply more, let it dry, and sand it again. And I'll repeat the process until the wood looks smooth and I'm satisfied with the coverage.

Next, I apply the top coats. Water-based poly dries very quickly so I prefer to spray rather than brush them on. When I do brush, I use disposable foam brushes and quickly lay on thin coats without brushing back and forth, to maintain the chance of marks showing up in the final finish.

After each coat dries, I sand very lightly with 320-grit paper and tick off the surface to ensure that the next coat will adhere well.

At this point in your project, I'd suggest that you brush in a few more coats of poly, sanding very lightly

DO IT YOURSELF
If you have a leaky basement, the water can seep up if the pipe is not sealed properly. The pipe can be sealed with a pipe sealant. The sealant can be applied to the pipe in the basement. The sealant can be applied to the pipe in the basement.

between coats, then smooth away the brushstrokes with a sanding block and 320-grit paper. Take care not to sand all the way through the poly and down to the stone. When everything is smooth, it means the dust will lay on one last coat using a foam brush. The finish will be as smooth as can be.

PRUNING ADVICE

We love our 28-year-old rose at Sharon, but each year the foliage gets thicker and there are fewer blooms. What can we do to revive it?
—CROVER GARDENS, WEAVERLY, PA.

Roger Cook replies: That's a really old rose of Sharon! The best way to rejuvenate it is with a judicious pruning in late winter or very early spring, before it leafs out. It produces flowers on new growth, so if you prune too late, the bush won't blossom until next year.

Can't take one-third of the branches and leave the rest alone. To help it bounce back, give it some extra water and fertilizer it periodically using an organic fertilizer, such as Ferti-Lome (superna.com). Do this for three consecutive years, pruning only the older branches, and you will end up with a more compact shrub, thicker foliage, and more flowers.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

We're remodeling our kitchen and want to install a stone-tile floor. Anything we need to know before we begin?

—MUCHNOURNCE, THACKER, NY

Justin Anderson of Wilton Handyman replies: If you're going directly over subfloors, tiles are likely to crack or pop loose unless you take two extra steps. First, seal the subfloor by gluing and screwing a second layer of 1/2-inch sheathing to the existing layer. Second,

install what's called an uncoupling membrane to isolate the rigid stone or ceramic from the subfloor's flexing joints and seasonal movements. Here, we used Ditra (schluter.com), a dimpled plastic sheet that resembles a tin ceiling while. Although many tiles and clay stone directly onto the subfloor, I won't guarantee any of your jobs without the membrane.

Once the membrane is in place, the tiling proceeds as usual. Be sure to use waxed-filled tiles, as the latex-modified bond won't harden properly when sandwiched between the tile and the membrane.

Cost, per square foot:
Stone, \$60-\$80; membrane, \$1-\$2; other materials, \$60 cents.
Time: 3 days.
Difficulty: Moderate. Stone tiles aren't uniform and take extra care to lay evenly.

To protect just-installed stone from stains, Justin Anderson seals it with a water-based impregnator that dries clear. Lather the color on in circles.

STEP-BY-STEP Lay a stone-tile floor

1. Cut the membrane

Start at a corner, roll out the membrane (bedded side down) inside the room's long wall. All the end will, crease the roll into the corner, as shown, and cut along that crease with a utility knife. Trim any protruding gut around pipes, ducts, and doorways. Lay out and seal the remaining membrane so that its edges butt together and they cover the entire floor.

2. Spread the thinsert

Number the sections, roll them inside their vacuum the floor. Mix a batch of thinsert. Use polymer-modified thinsert on plywood and unmodified thinsert on a cement-based substrate. Starting at a corner, spread the mix evenly over a 6-foot section as wide as the membrane, then smush out long parallel furrows with a 1/4-inch notched trowel, as shown.

3. Roll out the membrane

Don't let the thinsert sit—any delay could prevent a good bond. Roll the first membrane section into the corner and immediately lift and snub out wrinkles. Spread and comb out another 6-foot section of thinsert, and use the next portion of the membrane until it. Repeat until the final roll reaches the end wall.



4. Secure the membrane

Immediately after the membrane is laid, use a grout float to press every square inch firmly into the thinsert, as shown. Do this same after laying each succeeding section. Once the entire floor is covered, dry lay lines of tiles between each pair of walls to help you bend to calculate cuts and get a pleasing layout. Pick a starting point that will keep you from stepping on stones after they're laid.

5. Lay the tiles

Size and orient the tiles over an area about 3 feet by 16 inches, filling the membrane's 1/4-inch-deep furrows. Lay out parallel ridges with the notched trowel. For each tile, smear thinsert on its under side, press it firmly in place, and make sure it adhesion to neighbors and that the joints are even. Gently remove excess thinsert from the joints with a putty knife and smooth the stones with a damp sponge.

6. Grout the joints

The next day, with a third-hand rubber with marbles end, and, to push it into the stone from good sides, apply a gentle. When that's dry, mix up a smooth grout and push it diagonally into the joints with a grout float. Wait 20 minutes; then wipe off grout residue from the stone with a damp sponge, drying it often. Don't disturb the joints. The next day, rub off any haze with cheesecloth and wipe and fluff water out.

send your questions to ask@oldhouse.com

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Sliding compound miter saws

These souped-up chop saws ride on rails, giving you the ability to plane through wide stock—yet no taking 2x12s—without a loss of size. Here are five 30-inch blade models that make the cut. —CHRISTOPHER

what to look for

1. A powerful motor that won't bog down.
2. A tall fence to support angled cuts.
3. Built-in side supports to support long beams.
4. Easy forward angle markings.
5. Up-front controls for no hassle angle adjustments.



BOSCH 4310
\$540, 55 pounds; boschtools.com

Both the bevel and micro-adjustable miter controls sit up front, so you don't have to reach behind to adjust them. We wish it had a laser to show where the blade will land on the work. Most had angle markings in large print pop. While it's not the lightest tool, a second handle makes for an easy carry. Just be sure to wear eye protection as the power motor on this saw screams like a banshee. **Five pros:** 15 amp, 4,000 rpm motor. Max rphs: 52 degrees left, 60 right. Max cutting depth: 2 1/2 inches. Max cutting width: 12 inches.

NOTE: For testing purposes, we removed the blades that came with this saw and ran speed each one with a 30-inch 80-inch Delta blade (below, deltausa.com).

Check for true

How to test if your saw cuts accurately

STRAIGHT CUTS: Make a 90-degree cut through a stack of two pieces of 2x4, edges to the fence. But the cut ends together, with the same edges against the fence. IT'S OK. If you adjust the saw. **MITERS:** Make a 45-degree cut through two stacked pieces, edges to the fence. Mark these edges and put them against a square, as shown. The cuts should meet perfectly. **BEVELS:** Cut a 45-degree bevel through two pieces of an eighth-inch against the fence. Form a corner against a square to see if the cuts mate.



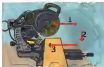
DEWALT DW717
\$505, 51 pounds; dewalt.com

Large vertical cutting capacity easily takes large crown molding. We love how easy it is to adjust miter with its bit can lock lever. The bevel control, however, is in the rear tucked under the dust ring, which didn't do its job. There's a safety trigger and roller, but this is still a great all-around saw. **Five pros:** 15 amp, 4,000 rpm motor. Max rphs: 60 degrees left, 50 right. Max cutting depth: 3 inches. Max cutting width: 14 inches.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Clever cuts

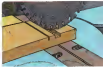
How to safely create tight joints and flat-bottomed grooves from your saw



PROPER USE: 1. Making the work freely against the fence with one hand, use your other hand to pull the saw all the way forward. 2. Pull the trigger and lower the blade fully. 3. Slowly push the blade forward through the wood. Raise the saw, release the trigger, and wait for the blade to stop before removing the piece.



BACK REVEAL: Whether you're making miters or straight cuts, leaving the cut slightly below the back edge of a piece of trim—a trick known as back beveling—helps ensure tight butt joints. You can tilt the blade at an angle, but it's a quicker and easier to shrink the stock by stopping a period until the cut is close to where the cut will be made.



SADDLE: Mark the desired depth across the end of some stock. Using the saw, backcut the cut, and then the blade will hit the lowest tooth into the work. Redesign the stop. Now when the stock is away from the fence so that the lowest tooth meets the back edge of the work piece, if a joint looks good, cut each side of the stock. Then make repeated cuts to remove the material between.

TIP: Here's an easy way to fine-tune your cuts. Lower the blade—don't start it—and push your work against its side, deflecting it slightly. Now raise the blade and make the cut. Only a thin sliver will come off. —HOWARD



HITACHI C10FSH
\$495, 43 pounds; hitachipowertools.com

It's the most portable of the pro-grade bunch. We like its perfect blade change vertical handle, and quiet soft-start motor. The blade sits locked cutting depth and miter angle markings on a printed sticker. Yet we always want back to the rear. It's the best because it's smooth, comfortable feel. **Five pros:** 12 amp, 3,800 rpm motor. Laser guide. Max miter: 45 degrees left, 50 right. Max cutting depth: 3 1/2 inches. Max cutting width: 12 inches.



MAKITA LS1016L
\$449, 58 pounds; makitatools.com

This massive saw sports a tall 4 1/2-inch fence and runs on four sturdy rails instead of the usual two. You can select which side of the blade you want the laser to shine on, and it has an excellent dust collection—both huge pluses. We liked the cold design but never got used to the cold. We liked miter lock or the need to push harder in the blade toward the end of a cut. **Five pros:** 20 amp, 3,700 rpm motor. Max miter: 52 degrees left, 60 right. Max cutting depth: 4 1/2 inches. Max cutting width: 12 inches.



KOBALT 358938
\$399, 36 pounds; lowe.com

Although less than half the price of the others, this saw comes with many high-end features: micro motor adjustment built-in side handles, a tilt fence, and an extra handle for easy transport. The downside are its clunky printed miter angles, right-bevel tilt to the left, and tendency to blow sawdust everywhere into the collection bag. **Five pros:** 15 amp, 4,800 rpm motor. Laser guide. Max miter: 50 degrees left and right. Max cutting depth: 3 1/2 inches. Max cutting width: 12 inches.

HOW TO REMOVE RUST STAINS FROM CONCRETE
Our concrete driveway has rust stains from a car repair that we stored in it for a while. We tried to pressure-wash them, but so did. What should we try next?

—DAVIDA KIRA, SUGAR HILL, CALIF.

Karla O'Connor replies: Some Parry, a concrete specialist at the Portland Cement Association, says that rust stains on concrete almost always have to be removed with chemicals.

He suggests spraying the area with water, then mopping the area with 1 pound of pure oxalic acid powder mixed into a gallon of hot water. You can get oxalic acid—also called wood bleach—at paint-supply stores or wood-working suppliers. Let the solution sit for 3 to 5 hours,

then rinse the treated area with water while scrubbing the area with a stiff-bristle broom.

If the stain persists, a second treatment might be necessary. But if that doesn't do the job, try a poultice, a thick paste that remains active for days, enabling the rust remover to penetrate deeply. Miracle Seal-ers (miraclesealers.com) makes an effervescent hydrogen-peroxide liquid poultice that can sit for 72 hours without dissolving the concrete.

Whatever method you use, Parry recommends always treating it first as an inconspicuous location, following the directions closely and monitoring the process so that you don't over-clean the surface and make the spot brighter than the rest of your drive. "As long as you wash what's going on, you can control it," he says.



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Owner: For information, see "Your Appeal Rejected? Everybody's Got One."

Before + After Kitchen: An actual bread box that really works! See 20-25. **Designer:** Anne Sullivan, 833 895 5827. **Joiner:** Steve Kilham and Jeff Ching Drive, MD. **Generalist:** John Pomeroy, 410-398-0000. **Color:** Schwan's. **Paint:** Benjamin Moore. **Lighting:** Pottery Barn. **Decor:** Pottery Barn. **Decor:** Pottery Barn. **Decor:** Pottery Barn.

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save this old house

Price: \$41,500
Location: Appleton City, Mo.
Contractor: Clint Powell, Country
 Web Realty, 850-432-5413

The history: This charming early-20th-century Queen Anne was a symbol of success for leader-turned-entrepreneur William B. Stout. After the railroad came to town in 1870, Stout saw great potential for growth in this small agricultural community. Ten years later, with just \$350 in capital, he opened a grocery that he ran for more than five decades. In 1907, at age 63, he put his savings to work building this house for himself, his wife, Lura and his son, William Jr. It remained in his family until the 1990s.

Why save it? The sturdy four-bedroom, two-bath home has its original pine trim, wood floors, staircase, and many other interior details. Extensive dental moldings and intricate carvels and finials decorate the exterior.

What it needs: Built around 1900, the house needs new plumbing and wiring, as well as some structural work. The painted metal siding is peeling, and conceals the original wood shingles. Appleton City, a quiet town of 1,127 located 80 miles south of Kansas City, offers lots of charm and opportunities for recreation in the nearby Ozark Mountains. All it's missing is a newcomer to put the place back into one of its most graceful old homes.

—PAUL HOLT

Just in case you're not ready to commit to a full renovation: Country Realty is looking for a buyer. For more info, call Clint Powell at 850-432-5413 or visit www.countryrealty.com.

A roomy
Queen Anne
loaded with
potential



1. This 3,000-square-foot home is located a block from the small town's main street. The front porch retains its carvels, turned posts, and decorative pediment but needs restoration. 2. A staircase with the finest parlor is highlighted. 3. An original bathroom features a marble fireplace with a tiled, iron surround. 4. The house's original metal siding and finials are typical of the simplified Late-Queen Anne style that flourished in the 1900s.

Get a house? If you're not a local, Stout Realty is your go-to. Call Clint Powell at 850-432-5413 or visit www.countryrealty.com or The Old House 125 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020.



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